



# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,689

IN THE NEWS SECTION



## Premiership club guide

WITH 7 PAGES OF SPORT

FRIDAY REVIEW

A slice of the action

## Ultraviolence in Manchester

REVIEW FRONT



## Staring into space beyond Hubble

MUSIC ARCHITECTURE DESIGN

Genetic food is backed by top scientist

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

ONE OF the world's leading authorities on evolutionary genetics has condemned what he sees as irrational fears over genetically modified food.

Richard Dawkins, Simony Professor of the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University, says that modifying food by genetic engineering is no different to the selective breeding carried out by farmers for thousands of years.

Professor Dawkins, who is an award-winning science author, says in a letter to *The Independent* that the toxins and poisons which occur in natural, "unengineered" food are just as dangerous as anything that could result from genetic engineering.

"I can reveal that the toxins in deadly nightshade, deathcap fungi and puff adder venom are produced by unengineered genes," he writes.

In a response to the fears expressed by Prince Charles in June that scientists are playing God by genetically enhancing food, Professor Dawkins said yesterday that there are many types of foods that would not exist without such intervention.

"The other thing you can say to Prince Charles is that if you look at a maize cob it is



Dawkins: genetic expert

hugely different from a wild maize cob and that has been achieved not by introducing foreign genes but by artificially selecting genes," he says.

"When one uses rhetoric like 'Frankenstein's plants', you could call a maize cob a Frankenstein plant, but everyone is quite happy to eat maize cobs."

Although he accepts there are still risks attached to genetically modified crops, Professor Dawkins said that these are more likely to be environmental rather than nutritional or medical.

"There's a general feeling that these foods are almost radioactive. The reaction has been as if people believe genetically modified plants are poisonous, or they give you cancer or that they degrade your immune system. Well anything can do that."

Genetic engineering can introduce genes from one species of plant or animal into the genetic makeup of another species of crop plant, but "the fact that you are importing them from another species does not inherently make it bad or good", the professor says.

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# Soros 'meltdown' warning sparks turmoil in markets

BY MICHAEL HARRISON  
and LEA PATERSON and  
HELEN WOMACK in Moscow

GEORGE SOROS, the currency speculator who broke the Bank of England, caused mayhem on the world's financial markets yesterday after warning of a "meltdown" in Russia and calling for a devaluation of the rouble.

Russia's "Black Thursday", as it was dubbed by state-owned radio, caused severe jitters in other markets, with shares down sharply in both London and Germany and the German mark down by four pence against sterling at one point.

Trading on the Moscow stock market was suspended for 35 minutes after shares

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crashed by 12 per cent in the wake of Mr Soros's remarks, made in a letter to the *Financial Times*.

Mr Soros, a Hungarian-born speculator and philanthropist, is reputed to have made \$1bn betting against sterling when it was forced out of the Exchange Rate Mechanism in 1992.

Since then his record has been patchy. Mr Soros got his fingers burnt badly during the Far East economic crash and then misjudged spectacularly earlier this year by taking out an \$8bn bet against the pound.

But yesterday he was bang on target, after urging the Russian authorities to devalue the rouble by between 15 and 25 per cent. In his letter he said: "The meltdown in Russian financial markets has reached the terminal phase... The best solution would be to introduce a



George Soros: His letter warning of "meltdown" in Russia and calling for devaluation of the rouble caused mayhem on financial markets around the world. Gamma/FSP

currency board (pegging the currency to the dollar or the euro) after a modest devaluation of 15 to 25 per cent."

The reaction in the already shaky Russian markets was dramatic. The central bank was forced to impose limits on rouble trading after heavy selling of the currency, and yields on government bonds rocketed on fears of a devaluation.

The Russian authorities rebuffed all suggestions of a devaluation. The prime minister, Sergei Kirienko, described the day's events as "in the sphere of psychology and not real economics", while other ministers rallied around the battered stock market and currency.

Mikhail Zadornov, finance minister, said: "If we thought that a devaluation was in

evitable, we would not be following our current policy. But it is avoidable."

However Germany Zyuganov, the Communist leader, warned: "An absolutely urgent situation has arisen. If there is a devaluation of the rouble, a collapse of the banks and the impoverishment of the people will follow."

In Britain, the FTSE closed down 62.7 points at 5399.5, hav-

ing been down by more than 100 points during morning trading. Germany was one of the worst-hit European bourses, due to worries about the exposure of German banks to Russia. In Frankfurt, the DAX ended the day slightly down.

In the US, the Dow fell 44 to 8509 in late-morning trading, erasing an earlier 50-point gain. Rumours of a Russian de-

valuation had earlier hit the markets in Hong Kong, where the Hang Seng Index closed down 199 points, at its lowest level since April 1993.

Experts were agreed yesterday that a devaluation would provide short-term relief to Russian woes. But it would also bring a new set of problems, since many Russian banks have commitments to

buy dollars at an agreed point in the future at a fixed dollar/rouble exchange rate.

Devaluation would also damage the confidence of both residents and foreign investors. A sharp fall in the rouble would render the savings of many Russians almost worthless in foreign currency terms. This so-called "wealth effect" could precipitate a political crisis.

## Benefit fraud staff 'swanned round' at taxpayers' expense

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

much work the 20 agents had done. Loft was set up by the Department of Social Security and Association of London Government (ALG) to cut the £1bn cost of fraudulent housing benefit and council-tax claims.

It was charged with tracking down landlords and gangs who worked across the capital and who had avoided detection by councils. But the commission found that of 98 cases handled, 12 were fully investigated and of those seven resulted in no further action; 38 were rejected as unsuitable and five others referred to police and other agencies.

The new Rovers, Audis and

Renaults the agents were supposed to use for surveillance of suspects were used for private purposes.

An anonymous letter to Alan Williams, Labour MP for Swansea West, said the agents were "playing cards all day and swanning around in brand-new BMWs at the taxpayers' expense". But the Audit Commission report said the unit should continue, because it had potential to halt big fraudsters in their tracks if it were properly managed. It called on the ALG to act with "great urgency" on its recommendations to tighten up monitoring of staff and car-fleet logs.

Iain Duncan Smith, the Conservative spokesman on social security, said: "Since New

Labour came to power, the faults in Loft went unchecked. This is yet another example of New Labour ministers being caught out for not closely following their briefs."

An ALG spokesman said the report was "unfair" and the anonymous letter inaccurate, because the cars involved were not BMWs. "There are bound to be teething problems and... we do take on board some of their recommendations but the complex nature of the cases mean that prosecutions do take time".

Loft has in the past been lauded by ministers as a model of how to combat fraud and the Audit Commission had hoped it would be replicated across the country.

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## The day the BBC dropped its drawers

BY JANE ROBINS  
Media Correspondent

REFERENCES TO ladies' underwear, lavatories or effeminacy in men were considered vulgar, while special permission was needed to impersonate Vera Lynn or Gracie Fields. Such was the post-war world of the British Broadcasting Corporation.

A 1948 document just released as a book by the BBC, "Variety Programmes Policy Guide" for writers and producers - selling at £4.99 - details the vulgarities considered by the Corporation hierarchy to be too risqué-making for a post-war audience.

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The one rule that would offend a modern audience is that which permits the term "nigger minstrels".

Perhaps the most ignored rule was the outlawing of jokes which might be taken to encourage "spivs" or "drones" - species that were to pepper sitcoms in the 1960s.

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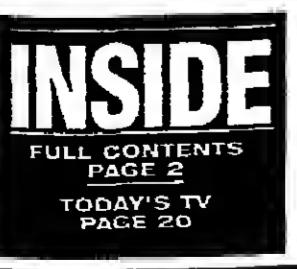
Lynn: "untouchable"

and special permission from the higher echelons is needed for Vera Lynn and Gracie Fields. BBC top brass also ruled that Parliament, its Acts, and the constitution must never be referred to in a derogatory way. Jeremy Paxman might have had small pickings; in the post-war environment, they banned anything that could be construed as personal abuse of ministers, party leaders or MPs.

There's a general feeling that these foods are almost radioactive. The reaction has been as if people believe genetically modified plants are poisonous, or they give you cancer or that they degrade your immune system. Well anything can do that."

Genetic engineering can introduce genes from one species of plant or animal into the genetic makeup of another species of crop plant, but "the fact that you are importing them from another species does not inherently make it bad or good", the professor says.

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### HOME

A former naval officer who stalked a woman for more than six years walked free from court

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In a sombre scene, the bodies of 10 Americans killed in the US embassy bombings in Africa returned home

### FOREIGN

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A little PIMM'S late morning, becoming widespread by the afternoon.

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Train workers off sick will face random visits by managers after illness rates doubled at one of the biggest private rail firms. Page 10

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The Paris region has the greatest concentration of wealth and economic power of any region in the European Union. Page 12

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Law and order is starting to break down in disaster-struck areas of China after more than month of severe floods. Page 14

## Australia set for tax revolution

Australia's Prime Minister yesterday announced the most comprehensive tax reform package in the country's history. Page 14

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Shares of Vaux slumped 11 per cent, wiping \$60m from the pubs-to-hotels group's market value after the company denied that it was in takeover talks. Page 18

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England's cricketers prepare for their next test, a triangular one-day series starting today with South Africa against the World Cup holders, Sri Lanka. Page 26

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Ex-England rugby union coach Jack Rowell will form a managerial team at Bristol with Bob Dwyer, who guided Australia to victory in the 1991 World Cup. Page 28

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'I hope that Max Clifford will one day be kind enough to reveal the details of the brilliant work he must have done in launching The Beatles.' Page 5

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## Labour slaps down unrest

By COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent

THE LABOUR leadership last night cracked down on dissent in the party as it revealed preparations to make this year's annual party conference as trouble-free as possible for Tony Blair and the Cabinet.

Conference reports show there is growing unrest in the Labour grassroots over the Government's public sector pay squeeze, the failure to provide Parliamentary time for the bill to ban foxhunting, and increases in calls for the abolition of the Monarchy and the House of Lords.

But the room for dissent at the conference is being minimised, with Cabinet ministers facing questions at the conference behind closed doors for the first time, without the press and cameras present, in two 90-minute sessions during the week.

As the plans emerged, for what promises to be the most carefully stage-managed Labour conference ever, Tom Sawyer, the outgoing party gen-

eral secretary took firm action in slapping down Liz Davies, a left wing candidate for the national executive elections, who had sent an open letter to NEC members protesting that a telephone ballot could be open to manipulation and abuse.

Mr Sawyer accused Ms Davies, a one-time rebel, of leading a "concerted campaign of slur and innuendo" against party staff and others about the handling of the telephone polling for the NEC elections.

"I must demand that you withdraw these allegations and

offer a full apology to party start," he said.

The activist Grassroots Alliance last night hit back accusing the leadership of being "control freaks" and persuading some candidates for the NEC elections to stand down to avoid splitting the right wing vote at the conference in Blackpool.

Party leaders said the new system of holding policy forums throughout the country meant there was more open debate than ever.

But it is clear that the lead-

ership wants no return to the days when Labour was last in power, and Cabinet ministers such as Denis Healey were pilloried at the annual conference.

There will be none of the traditional card votes on "composite" resolutions. Instead, the conference will discuss broad policy proposals, previously discussed in the policy forums.

The conference will open on Sunday with a review of the party machinery; key debates are likely to be on the economy

on Monday, health, education, controversial plans for reform of the state pension and the electoral system.

The NEC has told the Jenkins commission it is opposed to "pure" proportional representation, which, it warns, would lead to coalition government.

The leader's address by Tony Blair and the conference is due to end on Friday, said officials, with the traditional singing of the Red Flag.

Labour's membership is now an estimated 399,000.

## Concerns over suspended surgeon

By STEPHEN GOODWIN  
Scotland Correspondent

MANAGERS AT a hospital in Scotland where a surgeon was suspended following the death of one of his patients disclosed yesterday that concerns had been raised about his operating technique for months.

Concerns about the clinical practices of Piyush Sharma, 41, were first investigated by Douglas Irving, the medical director at Stracathro hospital in Angus, who was himself suspended three weeks ago when issues were raised over his treatment of patients with breast cancer.

The suspension of two of the hospital's three general surgeons has plunged Stracathro into chaos. All accident and emergency services have had to be transferred to Dundee, forcing casualties to travel up to 50 miles for treatment.

A file has been passed to the Procurator Fiscal, Scotland's prosecuting authority following the death in a Dundee hospital of Alexander Brown, a 66-year-old grandfather, only hours after an emergency abdominal operation performed by Mr Sharma at Stracathro. Mr Sharma was unavailable for comment last night.

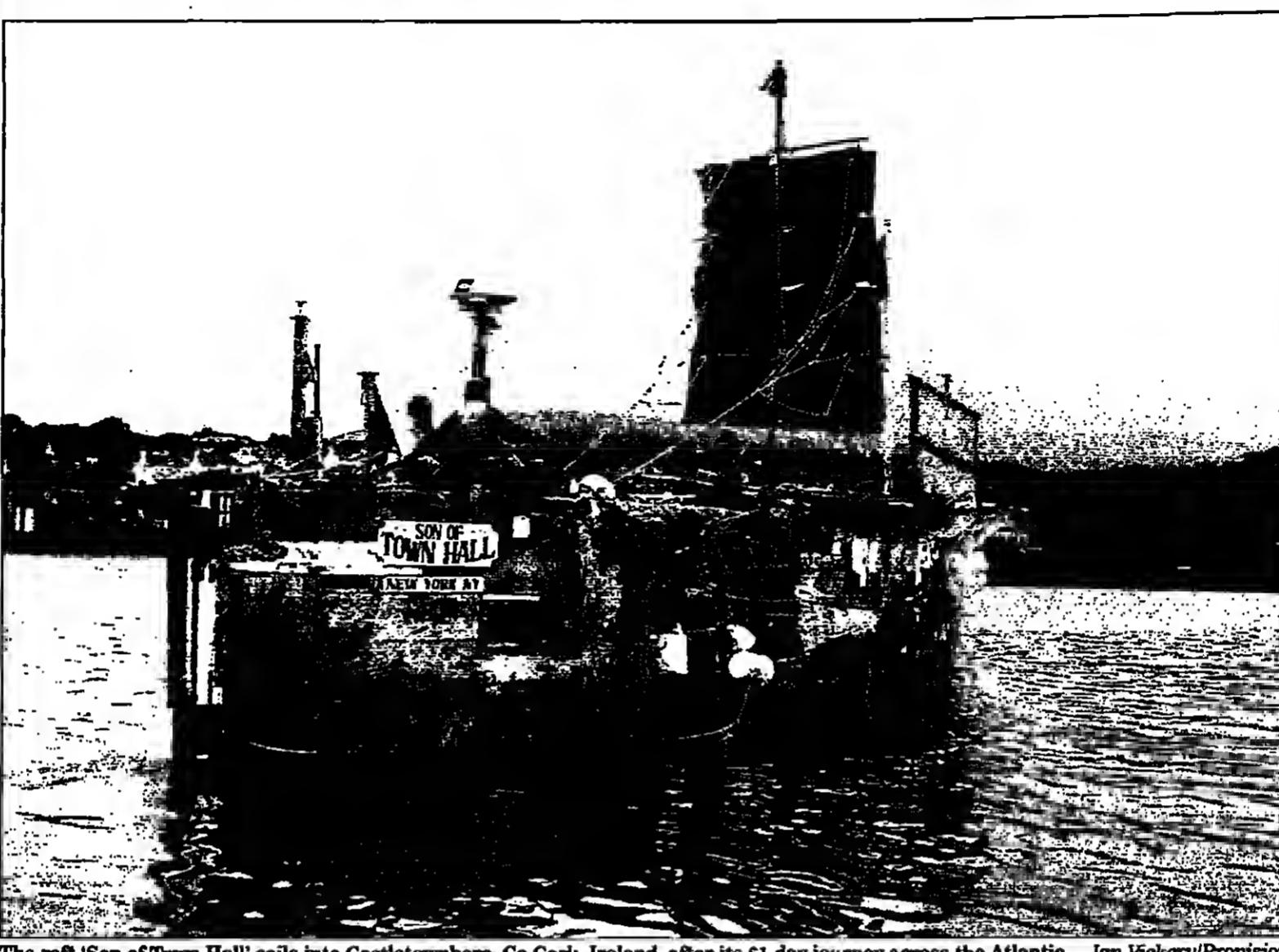
The records of some 400 patients treated by Mr Sharma since he arrived at the hospital last November are now being reviewed. Yesterday Doctor Gordon Paterson, who took over as acting medical director following Mr Irving's suspension, said he had been made aware of concerns about Mr Sharma's technique but there was no indication that action should be taken at that time.

"These were expressions of concern about his clinical practice in dealing with major cases. A lot of it would be major abdominal surgery," he said.

Mr Irving had discussed some of Mr Sharma's cases with him and had watched him operate. However Mr Paterson admitted he had not discussed the matter directly with Mr Irving whose own work is a subject of an external investigation.

The concerns went back months but Mr Sharma continued to carry out operations without supervision, as he was qualified to do. The full-scale investigation was ordered, and Mr Sharma asked to withdraw from practice, only after Mr Brown's death and what Dr Paterson indicated was further information coming to light.

Dr Paterson rejected suggestions that the hospital or the Angus NHS Trust had acted too slowly. "If we suspended every surgeon in the minute anybody said 'I think there's a problem' there would not be many surgeons [operating]," he said.



The raft 'Son of Town Hall' sails into Castletownbere, Co Cork, Ireland, after its 61-day journey across the Atlantic Ian Vickery/Provision

## Scientists go to war over salt: is it really so bad for you?

BY STEVE CONNOR  
Science Editor

A WAR of words has broken out over whether salt in the diet causes high blood pressure, with a leading British expert on hypertension accusing a prestigious American scientific journal of irresponsibility.

An article in the current issue of Science suggests that hypertension may be the result of a mineral-poor diet rather than high salt intake. A second paper also asks whether scientists should abandon the orthodoxy that salt is bad for health.

But Professor Graham MacGregor, professor of cardio-

evidence to show that a high salt intake is a major cause of high blood pressure, which is the most important cause of strokes and a major predisposing factor to heart attacks," Professor MacGregor said.

A number of studies on the effects of salt have appeared over the past two years which appear to contradict each other.

Critics of a high-salt diet believe the food industry, which has sponsored research into salt, is attempting to promote the idea that salt is safe.

David McCarron, a scientist at Oregon Health Sciences

University in Portland, says in Science that the role of salt in hypertension has long been debated and the conclusions are not clear. "The adequate intake of minerals, rather than restriction of sodium, should be the focus of dietary recommendations," he says.

He suggests that the shift in most people's dietary patterns from nutrient-rich foods such as milk, fruits and vegetables to nutrient-poor foods such as chips and soft drinks, is far more likely than salt to contribute to hypertension.

Professor MacGregor emphasised that British government advisers who have reviewed all the evidence relating to dietary salt have failed to come to the same conclusions.

The Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy has recommended a reduction in salt intake of 30 per cent for the British population.

Professor MacGregor said this would require co-operation from the food industry, because between 70 and 80 per cent of our salt intake now comes from processed foods such as bread, cereals and meat products.

## Teachers told not to apply sun cream

BY JAMES LYONS

school teachers to apply protective lotions, they should refuse. Ivor Widdison, an education expert at the LGA, said rubbing cream on children's faces, arms and legs would leave them open to false accusations which could threaten their career.

But the Local Government Association (LGA) insists that even if parents ask primary

teachers are very vulnerable to accusations of physical and/or sexual abuse," he said.

But cancer experts have urged a rethink, saying research showed that children who suffer severe sunburn are twice as likely to develop skin cancer in later life.

Although LGA recommendations do not apply to children

who are physically incapable of applying sun cream themselves, experts say a pupil's slap-dash approach could leave them at risk.

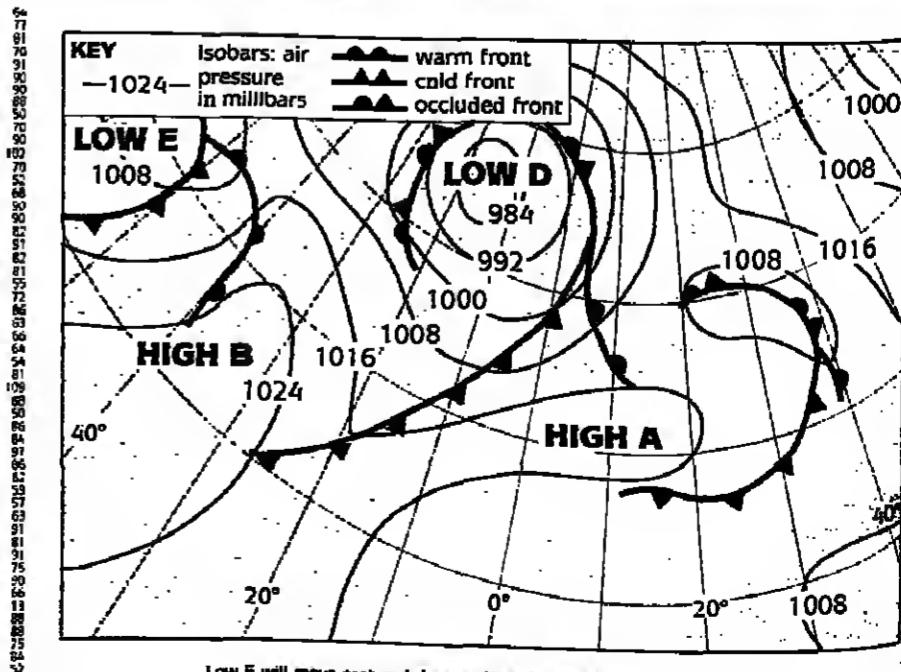
Kate Law, of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "A lot of youngsters are going to do a haphazard, dabbing job. It is a great shame that children can't be helped."

Children under 15 are particularly at risk, she said.

Teaching unions welcomed the LGA's advice, saying applying cream would cut in to lesson time and should not be the responsibility of their members. A NASUWT spokeswoman said the union already advised teachers not to put sun cream on pupils.

## THE WORLD

## ATLANTIC CHART, NOON TODAY



Low E will move east and deepen. High B will drift eastwards and build.

## BRITAIN TODAY

## LIGHTING UP TIMES

Met Office

Belfast 8.59pm to 5.59am

Birmingham 8.30pm to 5.30am

Bristol 8.30pm to 5.30am

Glasgow 8.56pm to 5.48am

London 8.26pm to 5.46am

Manchester 8.40pm to 5.48am

Newcastle 8.42pm to 5.48am

London 8.59pm to 5.59am

Edinburgh 8.59pm to 5.59am

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Edinburgh 8.59pm to 5.59am

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Belfast 8.59pm to 5.59am

Birmingham

Gustave Courbet weighs up the female attractions in his *Les Baigneuses*

Monroe's classic curves have given way to stretched models



The angular beauty of a Masai woman in southern Kenya Still Pictures

## Scientists unlock the secrets of women's sexual attractiveness

FOR WOMEN, it may come as a surprise. The men who stare at them across crowded rooms are not, after all, mentally unaddressing them. They are more likely to be weighing them up.

Curves, it turns out, are less important than weight in the eye of the 1990s British male. If it is not the classic hourglass figure that sets men's pulses racing, but simple slenderness. Sexual attractiveness lies in the pointer on the bathroom scales.

Or so scientists claim. In other cultures and at different times men may have shown different preferences in their search for the ideal mate, from the angular Masai tribeswomen of Kenya to the voluptuous models of Rubens' imagination.

But in northern England at the end of the millennium, young men's desires are focused on women of a certain, narrowly defined dress size.

Traditionally, the most attractive body shape for a woman - as decided by her male admirers - has been said to be determined by the ratio of her hip-to-waist size.

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
Health editor

A ratio of 0.7 - a curvaceous body in which the waist measurement is 30 per cent less than the hip measurement - was thought to be the ideal. The choice of this ratio is said to reflect evolutionary pressures, not those of the fashion houses, since it represents a fat distribution that leads to maximum fertility.

Drs Martin Tovee and Piers Cornwell, lecturers in the department of psychology at the

University of Newcastle, sought to put this definition of femininity to the test. They videoed 400 women students from the university wearing grey leotards and selected 50 representing the full range of body weights from emaciated to obese.

Still pictures of the 50 women with their heads obscured were shown to 40 male students who were asked to rank them for attractiveness. Despite the fact that women at all weights showed varying waist-hip ratios, it was their per-

ceived slenderness that influenced the men most.

Those with a body-mass index, a measurement of fat/thinness that combines weight and height, of 18 to 20 were judged the most attractive. This is thinner than the average woman whose BMI ranges from 20 to 25, but markedly plumper than the seriously underweight and anorexic who were judged as unattractive as the obese.

Body-mass index turned out to be far more significant than waist-hip ratio in determining

the men's choices - redefining the ideal of sexual attractiveness.

The choice has an evolutionary logic to it. Dr Tovee said: "What men find attractive in women are cues to their health and fertility so the partners they choose will produce lots of children and ensure the survival of their genes."

"A waist-hip ratio of 0.7 was thought to represent a fat distribution that led to maximum fertility but other research shows that a BMI of 18 to 20 is a much better predictor of

health and fertility." The students' preference for slender women demonstrates how evolutionary advantage is the father of desire. Even within the normal BMI range of 20 to 25, the plumpest people, although not overweight, are 20 per cent more likely to suffer heart problems and were also found to be unattractive.

"Weight is a very good predictor of health. We found there was a hierarchy of cues for attractiveness.

"The male students first chose women within the most fertile weight range and then discriminated them within that range on the basis of the waist-to-hip ratio."

The study is part of research into anorexia and grew out of the observation that anorexics whose periods have stopped and who are therefore infertile may still have waist-hip ratios like normal women, suggesting that the ratio is not a reliable indicator of reproductive potential.

Dr Tovee warned that women of normal weight should not conclude that dieting was the way to enhance sex-

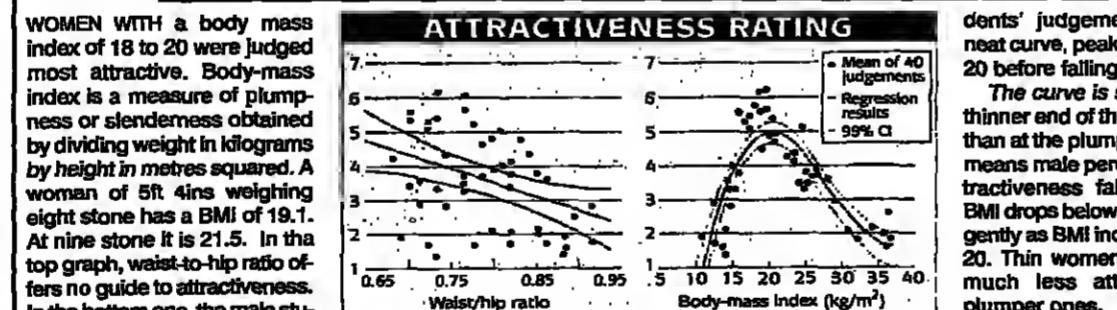
ual attractiveness. "Most women in this age group fall at the lower end of the normal range. They don't need to diet and could be doing themselves damage if they do. People with a body-mass index below 18 develop all sorts of health problems and were also found to be unattractive."

Although supermodels

appear to have a more pronounced hourglass figure. Although Playboy models have grown thinner over the decades since Marilyn Monroe posed for the magazine they are also taller and have retained their curves.

"I get annoyed when people say supermodels are anorexic and look like sticks insects. They are actually very shapely and they don't look like anorexics at all. Jodie Kidd is described as a waif but she is quite a strapping waif as waifs go. Her weight is just stretched out."

### HOW THEY REDEFINED FEMININE ALLURE



## ...but beauty's still in eye of beholder

BY DAVID COHEN

WHEN the Italian poet D'Annunzio visited Maillol's studio he admired the elegant, classical sculptures on view but let it be known that he preferred his women a little thinner.

Maillol was indignant. Of course he realised that, by urbane modern tastes, his women were rustic, stocky, compact. But the point of his art wasn't sexual craving so much as spiritual well-being. The viewer is supposed to think of the Golden Age, not a rendezvous.

Art is far from a reliable barometer of past sexual preferences because although the bodies of women of child-bearing age have been a relatively constant subject throughout its history, an enormous variety of different ideals have been projected on the female form.

Even when it comes to the goddess of love, the ideal isn't single-tracked, according to Plato, for whom there were two distinct Venuses: Venus Coelestis and Venus Naturalis, one for the libido, the other for more rarefied emotions.

It is with trepidation, there-



The Three Graces, Rubens



Lucian Freud's 'Naked Girl'



Portrait of a Young Woman by Meredith Frampton

fore, that one should re-visit the classicist canon with Dr Tovee's vital statistics in search of further confirmation, among the findings of his research among 40 lusty Newcastle undergrads. The earliest two reprodu-

tions in Kenneth Clark's classic study, *The Nude*, are of the "Venus" of Willendorf, a paleolithic carving of such extraordinary amplexus that the supposedly ideal hip-to-waist ratio of 0.7 is inverted (and more!), and a Cycladic doll,

who with her waist-like torso would not be out of place next to Kate Moss on the catwalk. But who's to say that the maker of either image sought an accurate depiction of a normal woman, let alone a desirable one? Reproduction is not

the only urge in art, any more than in sex.

Even if artistic images were to be treated as neutral documentation, it is unlikely that the "optimum body-mass index" would reveal a common, biologically-determined ideal.

For artistic ideals to reflect sexual libido we'd need to believe that oudes are drawn from life, or at least from longings based on experience. We'd also need to believe that the patron's libido overrules the artist's ideals, which is no more likely than a shopper's needs influencing a couturier's designs (according to Giorgio Armani, incidentally, Claudia Schiffer's proportions are "graceless").

As Kenneth Clark says, the nude is not so much a subject as a form: it can be filled with any number of preoccupations, aesthetic, sensual, intellectual. Flesh and its amplitude can likewise have symbolic meanings which transcend the changing shape of shapeliness: Courbet's earth goddesses, more Rubenesque than Rubens, are as much about politics as lust.

In the final analysis, it's as likely that art should influence sexual tastes as the other way around. The depicted oude establishes an ideal to be sought after in the real world.

## Parisians are on holiday.

There are hundreds of reasons to take a day-trip to Paris this August, but only one way to do it. Call Eurostar now or just turn up and go.

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# For 31,000 families disinherited by the Holocaust, the wait may finally be over

KENNETH WARD does not know what happened to the money his father, a music teacher, secreted away in a Swiss bank account as war loomed.

He was shipped to Britain at the age of 16 to escape the Nazis. His parents and elder brother later died in a Polish concentration camp.

Now a pensioner, Mr Ward is trying to find the missing money. He has filled in the forms to help identify accounts that Holocaust survivors have never been able to reclaim for lack of proof of ownership.

News of the \$1.25 billion (nearly £800 million) settlement agreed between two Swiss banks and Jewish leaders in New York late on Wednesday may help, regardless of whether the banks find Mr Ward's family account.

But despite the fanfare of the historic deal, the details are still to be agreed. It was brokered this week as several American states prepared to impose sanctions against Swiss businesses, accusing them of dragging their feet in resolving the affair. How exactly the money is going to be distributed over the next three years is still unknown.

"I think it's a step in the right direction," Mr Ward said yesterday from his home in Essex. "But I don't really know whether I will qualify."

For Mr Ward, as for many others, he only really wants what is his. "We're not looking for handouts. We're just hoping to retrieve some of the money that was deposited in Swiss bank accounts and was lost."

The deal was welcomed by Jewish groups even as it provoked some hostility in Switzerland itself.

From satisfying concerns about the wartime treatment of Jews, the decision looks likely to create renewed pressure to settle other outstanding disputes arising from the war and post-war settlements.

These include what happened to looted art and compensation for Jewish slave labourers forced to work in appalling conditions in German factories. Many big German companies have refused for years to compensate their former workers.

Neville Nagler, of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: "We would now look for a rapid settlement on the other major and outstanding issues.

## IN BRIEF

### Woman killed in car crash with family was expecting twins

THE MOTHER killed with her partner and three children in a road crash was expecting twin boys, it emerged yesterday. Marie Allen, 30, died instantly when the family's BMW burst into flames and crashed into a ditch after colliding with a coach on the A16 at Louth, Lincolnshire, on Wednesday evening.

### Children died of smoke inhalation

THREE CHILDREN found dead in a car earlier this month died of smoke inhalation and carbon monoxide poisoning, Staffordshire police said yesterday. Lucy Carter, seven, Hollie, three, and Thomas, four, were found near Alton Towers. Their father Steven Carter was found hanging nearby.

### Scotland's hospital success

HOSPITAL WAITING lists in Scotland have fallen for the first time in almost two years, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary said yesterday. And latest figures from Scotland's Health Board show no-one with a Patient's Charter guarantee waited more than 12 months for treatment.

### Animal export protests resume

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday came under pressure to end the trade in live animal exports as demonstrators vowed to resume daily protests at Dover. The row broke out as a new ferry service was due to start yesterday to boost the numbers sent for slaughter abroad.

### Waiting lists in Scotland fall

HOSPITAL waiting lists in Scotland have fallen for the first time in almost two years, Donald Dewar, the Scottish Secretary, said. Lists fell by 822 from 31 March to 30 June. Figures also show no-one with a Patient's Charter guarantee waited more than 12 months for treatment.

### Mink hunters accuse authorities

HUNTING GROUPS today accused environmental authorities of "political correctness" by not calling in their hounds to catch the mink rampaging through the New Forest. Members of Hampshire Mink Hounds said flushing them out with dogs was the most effective method.

### Water menace warning

AN ORGANISM that lurks in river estuaries steals people's memories, scientists warned yesterday. They said a similar organism that causes dementia-like symptoms was found in the North Sea in November.

## MARY DEJEVSKY

For a Briton, the uncanny awe in which Americans hold the President has something innocent and archaic about it'

— THE FRIDAY REVIEW, PAGE 3



Kenneth Ward with a picture of his parents and brother who all died in the Holocaust

Warren Page/Anglia Press Agency

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# Six-year stalker freed by judge

BY KATE WATSON-SMITH

A FORMER naval officer who stalked a woman for more than six years, sending hate mail, bugging her house and stealing personal possessions, walked free from court yesterday.

Anthony Burstow, 33, a veteran of the Falklands War, was bound over to keep the peace for 12 months by a judge at Reading Crown Court as his victim Tracey Morgan sat in tears.

Burstow had been charged with causing grievous bodily harm to Miss Morgan, 30, but the case was ordered to lie on file after he agreed to be bound over.

Judge Stanley Spence said he offered his great sympathy to Miss Morgan "who has found herself in a very difficult position over many years".

Burstow was jailed for three years in 1996 in a landmark case after he was convicted of causing psychological grievous bodily harm to the same woman, then known as Tracey Sant.

As she left the court, a clearly distressed Miss Morgan said: "As far as British justice goes he has got his civil liberties and I have not got mine any more. The suffering goes on."

"I just wanted a bit of justice.



Burstow had been previously jailed for stalking

All stalking victims seem to be in the same position."

The court heard that Miss Morgan first met Burstow when they worked together at HMS Collingwood naval base at Fareham, Hampshire, in 1992.

Miss Morgan, who was married at the time, befriended the petty officer because she felt sorry for him as his wife was serving in the forces abroad.

said Paul Reid, prosecuting.

"An acquaintance developed. Shortly thereafter she found the defendant's attention unwanted and made that clear.

"He was not daunted by this and shortly after commenced a campaign of harassment against her which led to him losing his job and led not only to his being convicted of a series of offences but also being

sent to prison on various occasions."

He was released from jail in June last year and at first appeared to have forgotten about Miss Morgan. But on 6 January she received a birthday card from him and heard that he had been seen near her home in Crowthorne, Buckinghamshire.

He was arrested on 22 January and has been in custody ever since, the court heard.

But Mr Reid said he had asked for the case to lie on file because there was insufficient evidence on this occasion to prove that Burstow had caused her grievous bodily harm.

"This position has not been taken lightly. It has been done after consultation with Miss Morgan who is distressed by it," he said.

When he was convicted two years ago, the court had heard that Burstow had harassed Miss Morgan, stealing her underwear, bugging her house and making menacing telephone calls.

He also broke into her home and stole address books and her wedding video. When she moved he found out immediately where she lived and wrote to her: "Remember this is totally personal and nothing will change how much I hate you."



"The suffering goes on," said Tracey Morgan after Burstow walked free from court

Owen Humphreys

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## Rewards for universities with low drop-out rates

BY JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

NEW FINANCIAL rewards for universities with low drop-out rates will be outlined by a government quango next week.

It will recommend that those universities which want to expand and bid for funds will have to show that they not only have high-quality courses, but have low drop-out rates.

Vice-chancellors yesterday attacked the scheme which will be based on the first ever official calculations of drop-out rates. Some reports suggest as many as one in five students are failing to finish their courses.

Officials from the Higher Education Funding Council, which has drawn up the plan and which distributes money, want to use low drop-out rates as one of the criteria for funding.

They are particularly keen to offer extra money to institutions

which attract and keep good working-class and disabled students and those from other groups which are under-represented in higher education.

Research carried out by the council shows that poorer students are more likely to drop out than their peers.

The proposals, which will be sent to all universities for consultation, are part of a wide-ranging package of measures to increase participation in higher education.

Officials from the National Union of Students said:

"In theory, the idea sounds right but there are many reasons why students leave college."

"Our research shows that, increasingly, students are leaving for financial reasons."

the poorest students.

But no-one is certain how many students fail to complete their courses. A student guide to be published next week will claim that 19 per cent drop out, but it has already drawn criticism from experts.

The Pus guide goes on to suggest that there are big variations in rates. At Oxford, according to the guide, it is 3 per cent, compared with 39 per cent at Brighton. The figures also include those who fail their final exams.

Difficulties in making the calculations arise because a growing number of students move from course to course. A funding council study last year found that half those who dropped out returned within a year. And others returned over a longer period. The new

scheme to use drop-out rates as one criterion for extra money will be possible because funding council statisticians have devised a way of tracking students through the system and calculating drop-out rates for individual universities.

Universities already lose funding for a student who drops out but officials believe the new system will help to ensure that universities put more emphasis on retaining students and helping those from poorer backgrounds.

A spokeswoman for the National Union of Students said:

"In theory, the idea sounds right but there are many reasons why students leave college."

"Our research shows that, increasingly, students are leaving for financial reasons."

Computer tracking could end beef ban

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

THE WORLDWIDE ban on British beef should be lifted by the end of this year following the introduction of a £25m computerised cattle tracking system, the Government announced yesterday.

The Agriculture minister, Jeff Rooker, said that the new project, due to begin next month, would offer the final reassurance that the nation's beef was BSE-free.

On a visit yesterday to the British Cattle Movement Service at Workington, Cumbria, Mr Rooker said he hoped the scheme would convince European Union politicians and vets that British beef was safe.

The system comes into effect on 28 September and will include a register of cattle, compulsory cattle tagging and a history of the animal until its death. Any creature that has been in contact with BSE, tuberculosis or other diseases will be identified.

Northern Ireland has had a computerised cattle tracking scheme for about 10 years and the service was a major reason for the lifting of its own export ban.

"We hope for an early lifting of the ban - there is no excuse for it not to be lifted now," Mr Rooker said.

"Certainly we hope that before the end of the year we might get a vote in our favour. It is important that we get this cattle movement service in place."

The new system will affect only cattle born after 26 September and will include a register of cattle, compulsory cattle tagging and a history of the animal until its death. Any creature that has been in contact with BSE, tuberculosis or other diseases will be identified.

The Government is negotiating with Brussels on a date-based scheme for cattle born after August 1996 and Mr Rooker said he was hopeful that progress would mean a total lifting of the ban.

Tim Yeo, the Conservative spokesman on agriculture, said the new system was very welcome, but the Government was failing to give enough priority to lifting the ban.

"Why, at a crucial time for the industry, is the Secretary of State, Nick Brown, on holiday?"

A lot of farmers would love to go on holiday at this time of year, yet the man charged with fighting their case in Europe is not around.

"If I had just been appointed to his post, I would be making it my job to have bi-lateral meetings with all my European counterparts as soon as possible."

A spokeswoman for the National Farmers' Union welcomed the creation of the tracking system. "This is yet another example of how Britain sets the highest standards and produces beef that is among the best in the world," she said.

## Leeds fails over degree courses

INSPECTORS HAVE severely criticised Leeds University after discovering that degrees had been awarded without proper checks.

They found that a course run by the Institute of Communications Studies had not properly consulted external examiners who act as the guardians of university standards.

Leeds is only the second "old" university to have a course effectively failed by inspectors from the Quality Assurance Agency, the body set up to monitor standards in higher education.

The report, published yesterday, found major shortcomings in the university's

INSPECTORS HAVE severely criticised Leeds University after discovering that degrees had been awarded without proper checks.

Bachelor of Broadcasting degree, which is taught and run in conjunction with the BBC.

It said there was "clear evidence of a serious breach of the university's examination regulations." The report continued: "The assessors have no confidence in the external examiners' system in the Institute of Communications Studies provides the necessary level of assurance of the quality of provision."

Leeds has failed to identify these breaches of regulations ... The assessors consider that the operation of the university's examinations procedure was seriously deficient in allowing degree classifications to be decided by an internal meeting at which no external examiner was present."

The degrees, awarded last year, will stand.

The university defended the course, pointing to a string of top grades for teaching on the course, and insisted the problem was a one-off. A statement said: "An administrative oversight" led to degrees being awarded without the external examiner signing off the grades.

It said all the courses making up the broadcasting degree had been subject to external checks, and no changes were made to grades at the final examiners' meeting.

Action had been taken to prevent a repeat of the problem.

Inspectors said teaching on the courses was of high quality and praised students' work. The inspectors will return to Leeds within a year to check that improvements have been made.

External examiners are the cornerstone of university degree standards. They are experts in their field, who visit other universities to monitor grades for undergraduate and postgraduate students.

## 'Hello!' intruded on Sir Paul's grief

BY PAUL McCANN  
Media Editor

HELLO! MAGAZINE has been severely criticised by the Press Complaints Commission for intruding into the grief of Sir Paul McCartney in the aftermath of the death of his wife, Linda.

Sir Paul complained to the PCC after photographs appeared in *Hello!* on 30 May, under the headline: "A month after losing wife Linda - Sir Paul McCartney - Getting by with a little help from his children."

The photographs showed Sir Paul walking in Paris with his children, lighting a candle inside Notre Dame cathedral, and eating in a cafe.

Sir Paul told the PCC that he had no idea he had been followed by photographers and said the pictures were "highly intrusive" photographs of us in our most

private moments at this very difficult time in our lives.

Maggie Kourou, the editor of *Hello!*, conceded that the photograph taken inside the cathedral should not have been printed, but said they had been added by *Hello!*'s parent company in Spain. She has already written to Sir Paul to apologise.

The magazine has since removed the photograph from its website.

The magazine has since removed the photograph from its website.

## Enigma machine sold for £7,475

BY IAN SHOWSMITH

AN ENIGMA coding machine, a vital weapon in the Nazi war effort, was sold for £7,475 at auction yesterday.

The machine, featured in Robert Harris's best-selling novel about British attempts to crack the code, went to a Cheltenham-based dealer at Christie's in South Kensington, London.

Winston Churchill, Britain's wartime prime minister, relied heavily on the work of the cryptologists at the intelligence headquarters at Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire.

The Germans never realised their complex ciphers had been cracked, and this gave the Allies a vital advantage as the war progressed.

The Enigma device fits into a wooden case slightly smaller than a briefcase. A keyboard was used to type in the messages.

Commenting on the price of the machine, which was brought in from France, he said: "It was towards the lower end of the range we expected, perhaps because its wooden case has been refurbished.



Joe Maitland

THE INDEPENDENT

THE INDEPENDENT  
Friday 14 August 1998

HOME NEWS/7

# Hollywood film-makers desert UK

BY PAUL McCANN  
Media Editor

THE HIGH value of the pound is threatening the boom in the British film industry by persuading Hollywood studios from using UK facilities.

Last year seven Hollywood films accounted for 54 per cent of the £465m spent making films in the UK, with 108 other films accounting for the rest.

Steve Norris, the British film commissioner responsible for attracting overseas makers, believes the UK will struggle to match that figure this year. "We might hit last year's total, but it looks unlikely."

He identifies the high pound, and more competition from countries such as Australia and Canada, as being responsible for the drop.

"At one time we were one of the few places to have the studios that could handle Hollywood productions but now other countries have built studios and they have weaker currencies and tax-breaks designed specifically for films. Canada gives tax-breaks based on the use of labour, which is often 60 to 70 per cent of a film's cost. And of course Canada has the advantage that locations there actually look like America."

When the British Film Commission was created in 1991 to market UK production expertise and locations, it was the first of its kind. Now 31 countries have their own equivalents. Hollywood producers will often use UK studios if, like the new Star Wars trilogy, most



A scene from Steven Spielberg's latest offering, *Saving Private Ryan*, one of the American productions lured across the Atlantic by the British Film Commission

production is studio-based and the film does not have a US-specific setting. The location can also be decided by a film's stars. "If the leading man wants to get back to Malibu every night to see his new baby, that

could have a greater impact than the value of the pound," said Mr Norris. "But the size of the Hollywood budgets are crucial, because they underpin the entire film industry infrastructure in the UK."

Britain's peak year for film production was 1996, when £56m was spent here by domestic and international filmmakers, up from £300m two years earlier. And Britain's main studios say they are still

attracting Hollywood business. "We have pencil bookings looking forward and have been consistently busy for the last two years," says Christina Sutch, sales and marketing manager for Pinewood, which is making

*Entrapment*, starring Sean Connery. The next Bond film will go into pre-production at the studio in the next few months. "Obviously, we don't want the pound to get any stronger, but there are a number of factors which dictate whether a film comes here," Ms Sutch added. "Mainly if they have a location shoot, or need the size of our stages and the ability to expand onto new stages if the production grows."

Hollywood blockbusters made in the UK, 1997-98:

*Lost in Space* (above)  
New Line Cinema £50m  
*Saving Private Ryan*  
Dreamworks/Paramount £43m

*Star Wars: Episode I*  
20th Century Fox £67m  
*Tomorrow Never Dies*  
United Artists £67m  
*The Jackal*  
Universal £35m  
*Entrapment*  
Fountainbridge Films/20th  
Century Fox £50m  
*The Mummy*  
Universal £45m  
*The Avengers* (below)  
Warner Bros £37m



She believes there may have been a slight slowdown in productions this year because a threatened actors' strike in the United States prevented producers from starting projects at the beginning of the year.

## Hard water link to childhood eczema

HARD WATER is a major risk factor for eczema in primary school children, according to research published today.

Scientists found that water hardness was more strongly linked with the skin disorder than traffic pollution or any other suggested hazard.

The study, reported in the *Lancet* medical journal, involved 4,141 primary school children and 3,499 secondary school children in southern Nottinghamshire.

Researchers led by Dr Nick McNally, from the University of Nottingham, found that 17.3 per cent of primary school children living in areas with the hardest water had suffered eczema for a year, and 25.4 per cent had had the disorder all their lives.

This compared with 12 per cent of primary school chil-

dren in soft-water areas who had eczema for a year, and 21.2 per cent who had lifetime eczema. The same association between hard water and eczema was not seen among children of secondary school age.

Hard water has been suggested as a risk factor for eczema before, but until now the link had not been scientifically established.

The researchers said the association for primary school children was "highly significant" both before and after adjustment for confounding factors.

Unadjusted lifetime prevalence of eczema was 4.2 per cent higher for areas with the hardest water than for areas with the softest water. Adjust-

## Child was killed by weighing machine

BY MELANIE HARVEY

A CORONER yesterday recommended changes to the way some upright weighing machines are made after a seven-year-old child was killed when one toppled over on top of him.

An inquest heard that Jordan Stafford died as a result of a fractured skull after the accident at Macclesfield leisure centre, Cheshire, on Bonfire Night last year. He had been playing on the 65 kg scales when they fell, trapping him.

Recording a verdict of accidental death, Cheshire Coroner John Hibbert said he would recommend to the appropriate body that design changes be ordered to such machines so they can be secured, preventing them from falling over.

Brian Roebuck, an engineering investigator for the Health and Safety Executive, said tests showed the machine "could be pushed or pulled over sideways by a child of five years of age if not secured", adding that "there was no provision on the machine to secure it to the floor or wall".

Roger Livermore, an inspector for the HSE, said the machines had been in use in this country for 60 years and there had never been any previous fatalities. Guidelines would be issued to local authorities about such machines in due course, he added.

The family's solicitor said they intend to look into the possibility of civil proceedings.

## Wine is cheap.

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# Treasury receives surprise £2bn tax bonus

BY ANDREW BUNCOMBE

SELF-ASSESSMENT, the taxation system criticised for its level of dastardly and fiendish complication, raised more than 20 per cent more money in its first year than Inland Revenue experts had expected.

The IR yesterday revealed that self-assessment brought in £1bn in the 1997-98 tax year, £2bn more than their experts had estimated.

The increase, which flew in the face of dire predictions in some accountancy quarters, is the equivalent of raising the basic rate of income tax by 2p more than in the pound.

Last night the IR insisted that people were not paying more tax, but factors such as early payment were bringing in more money more quickly. Some experts still suggested the complicated nature of the paperwork might mean people were paying too much money.

"If the extra money is a reflection of the strong state of the economy than that is one thing, but it might simply mean that people are making errors when they are filling in their forms," said Peter Bideley, technical manager with the Institute of Chartered Accountants.

Either way, the extra income represents a pleasant boost to the Treasury.

A Treasury spokesman said the amount raised was "slightly" more than expected. The extra income will go into general public sector accounts.

Under the self-assessment system - introduced last year - nine million mainly self-employed and higher earners have to fill in their own tax returns.

The forms consist of many pages and people have to give information about savings,

shares and other income.

Though the IR offered advice for the forms, anyone failing to meet the January 31 deadline faced an automatic fine of £100.

The IR confirmed yesterday that 775,000 fines had been

processed but said this did not mean £77.5m had been raised

because some people would

not have to pay them.

"Under the system anyone who is fined but has paid all their tax will get a rebate of their fine," said a spokesman.

"It is not the case that people are paying more taxes - they are paying exactly the same."

"Our estimates were very difficult to make because there were a number of factors, such as likely profits an individual might make, which are very hard to calculate."

The spokesman said that next year's estimates would take into account the forecasting error that had been made.

The National Consumers Association, which questioned the introduction of self-assessment, said yesterday that the results raised questions about the fairness of the forms.

"It is hard to believe that people are suddenly becoming more honest," said a spokesman. "The difference between what was estimated and what was actually raised has been large and one wonders whether people are simply getting the forms wrong."

The IR said anyone paying too much tax would either be offered a refund or else have the amount taken off any future tax bill.

Members of the Natural Theatre Company wearing conehead masks teasing a Japanese visitor in Edinburgh's Holyrood Park yesterday. The company will be just one of the 140 Fringe festival acts that will perform in the park this weekend

Jeff J Mitchell/Reuters

## Women 'should be allowed to choose Caesarean on demand'

BY JEREMY LAURANCE

Health Editor

PREGNANT WOMEN should be allowed to choose to have their babies by Caesarean section if they wish to avoid the problems associated with a normal labour, an article in the British Medical Journal says today.

The idea of allowing women Caesarians on demand to fit in with busy lives and avoid the pain and unpredictability of labour without sound clinical reasons, has been frowned on by doctors. But attitudes are changing, according to Sara Paterson-Brown, consultant obstetrician at Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea hospital, London.

A clearer assessment of the risks associated with normal labour and delivery has per-

suaded many women specialists in obstetrics to choose a Caesarean. A study last year showed one in three female obstetricians in London would opt for a Caesarean if given the choice. Other research has shown that Caesarians are popular with women who have had them. Half those who have already had a Caesarean would choose to have another.

The risks of vaginal birth include damage to the pelvic floor and to the urethral and anal sphincters which can result in incontinence and an increased long-term risk of prolapse of the genitalia. There

is also a risk to the unborn baby with one in 1,500 weighing over 1.5 kg (3lb 5oz) dying during labour. Ms Paterson-Brown says: "Elective Caesarean section cannot guarantee normality but it avoids the above problems by virtue of avoiding labour and prolonged pregnancy."

As reported in The Independent earlier this month, the number of Caesarians has grown sharply in the past 20 years to around one in six of all deliveries. The increase has been blamed on the rise in defensive medicine in response to the threat of litigation, although it is not known how many Caesarians are carried out at the request of the woman.

Recent Government reports have urged doctors to respect women's choices in maternity care and it is unfair for their choices to be discredited because they are not the ones expected, Ms Paterson-Brown says. "We are at a turning point in obstetric thinking brought about not only by advances that have made Caesarean section safe ... but also by the attitudes of society which reflect intolerance to risk. We encourage family planning, pre-pregnancy counselling and antenatal screening ... can we do all this and then refuse a woman a safe mode of delivery?"

In a response, Ohibusola Amu and colleagues from Leicester General hospital argue that there are still risks associated with Caesareans including a ten times higher rate of hysterectomy due to haemorrhage. In some women feelings of inadequacy, guilt and failure in not completing a natural process may affect bonding between mother and child, especially if the operation is conducted under general anaesthetic, they say.

They add: "Conflicts between maternal and fetal interests are potentially complex, ethically and emotionally, and difficult to resolve." They support choice for women but say they must be given full and honest advice about the risks and benefits so that they can make an informed decision.

Mr Gilbert, who was dismissed for poor performance, a bad attitude and a lack of initiative. He had been late and had breached security procedures over credit cards.

Mr Gilbert accused Ms Douse of "hounding" a previous male employee out of the bank, which she denied. He told her: "You also wanted rid of me because you didn't like working so closely with a man."

The tribunal continues.

A YOUNG woman bank manager made a male worker mop the floor of the branch as part of a campaign of sex discrimination against him, it was claimed yesterday.

Andrew Gilbert, 23, said he was singled out by Kathryn Douse, at 22 the Midland Bank's youngest manager, because he was a man.

Mr Gilbert, who was dismissed by the bank after a period of probation at its branch in a supermarket in Heywood, Greater Manchester, is claiming loss of earnings at an industrial tribunal in Manchester.

He told an earlier hearing that Ms Douse was "rude and patronising" towards him and that he was passed over for promotion. He told the resumed hearing that while there was an informal arrangement among staff for carrying out cleaning, Ms Douse one day said to him: "You to mop the floor today".

Ms Douse denied she had discriminated against Mr Gilbert, who was at the time the only man on the staff.

She told Mr Gilbert, of Handforth, Cheshire, who is representing himself at the hearing, that she did not know of the staff's arrangement, but could not recall ever seeing him cleaning. "The floor needed doing, he was free and I asked him to do it," she said.

Mr Gilbert also claimed that when a female member of staff misplaced her keys she got a "slap on the wrist", whereas he was given two serious verbal warnings for misplacing his.

"I made allowances for everyone," Ms Douse told him in cross-examination. "However the allowances stop when you lose your keys totally as you did. It was a serious matter."

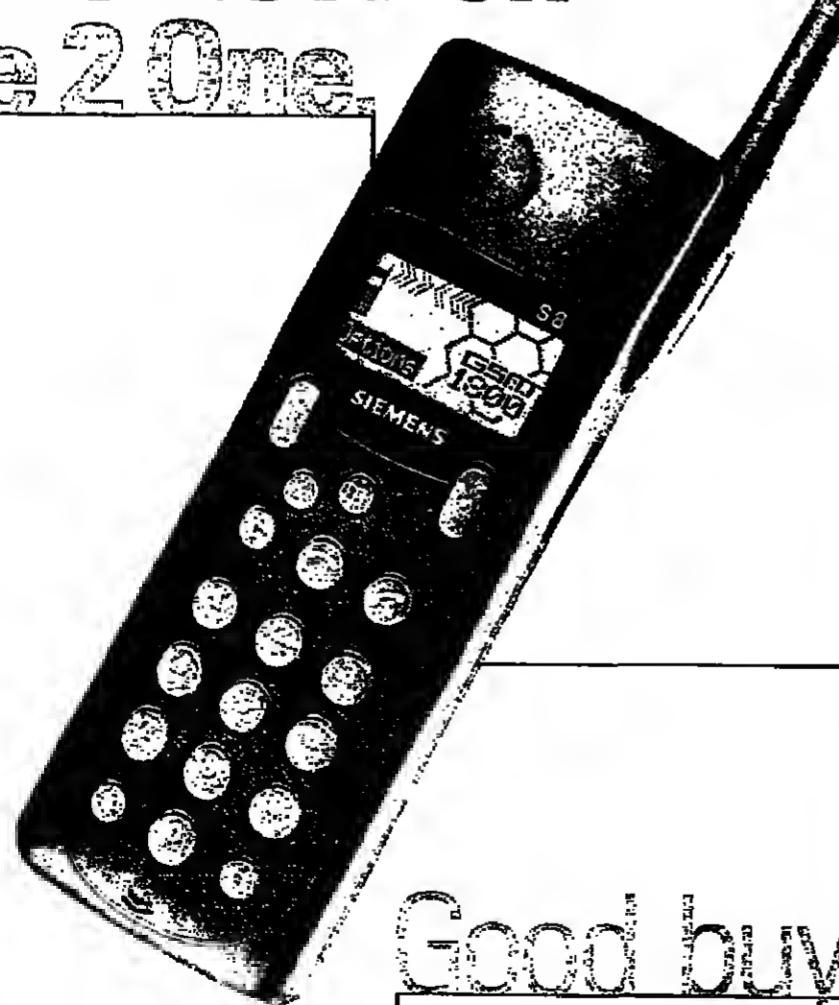
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SIEMENS

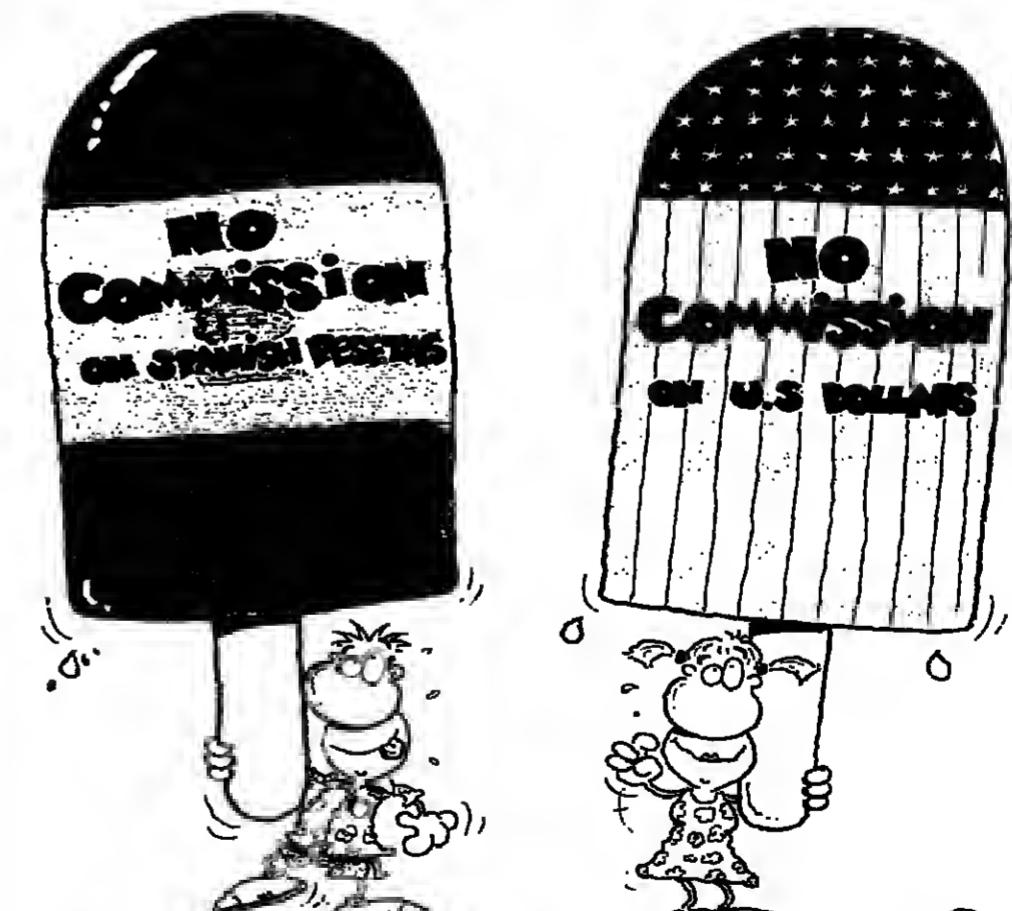
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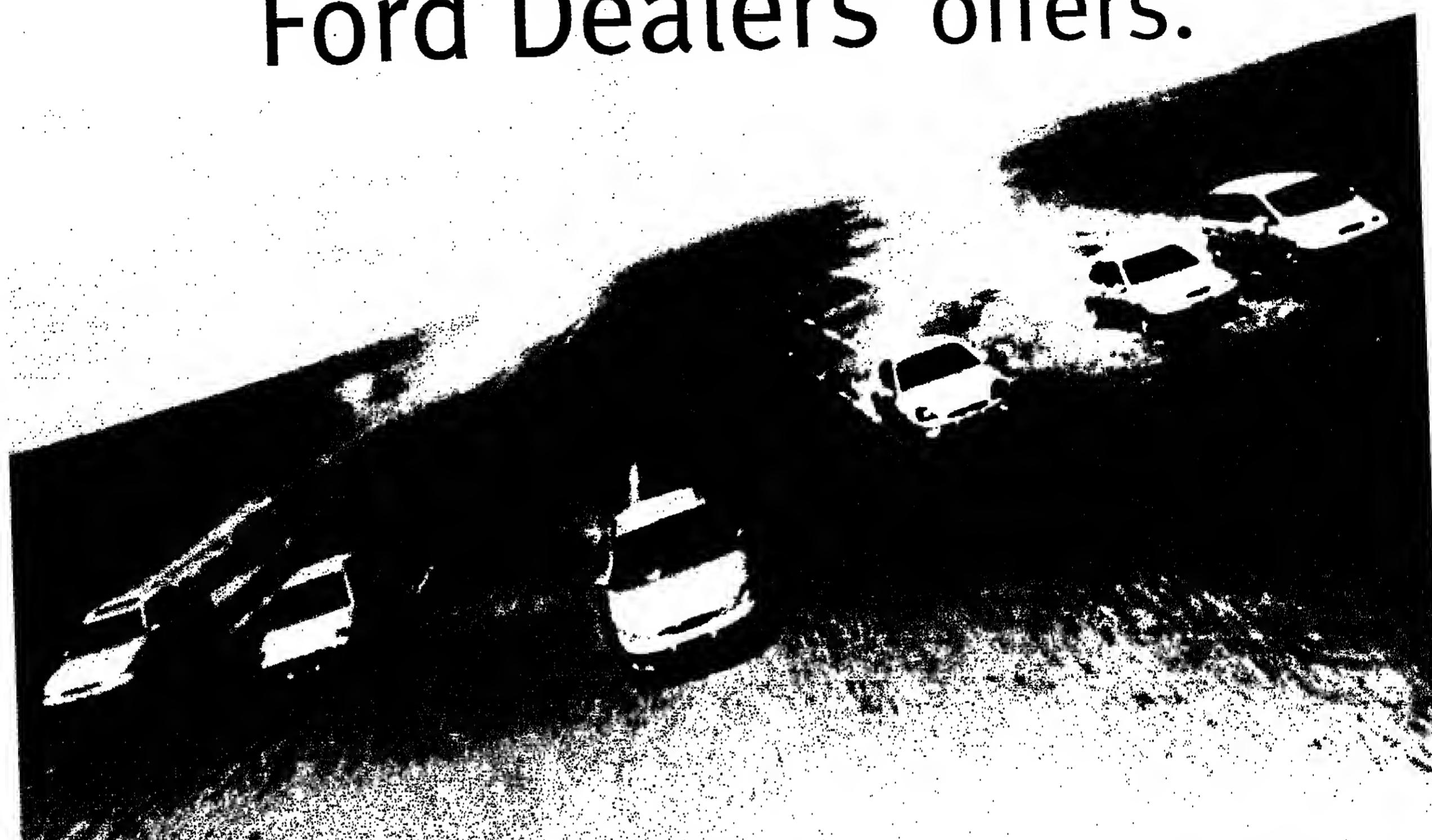
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Driver's airbag

3 door  
1.3 EFI  
Power steering  
Metallic paint  
Sunroof  
Radio/cassette  
Safeguard immobiliser  
Driver's airbag

3 door  
1.25 16V  
Power steering  
Central locking  
Alloy wheels  
Front fog lights  
Rear spoiler  
Sports seats and dials  
Safeguard immobiliser  
Driver's airbag

5 door/estate  
1.6 16V or 1.8 TDi\*\*  
Alloy wheels  
Electric front windows  
Rear spoiler  
Central locking  
Metallic paint  
Air conditioning  
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Power steering  
Safeguard immobiliser  
Driver's airbag

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6,000

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Total payable

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# Dictionary try every trick in the book as they battle for sales

BY KATHY MARES

A STUNT is defined in *The New Oxford Dictionary of English* as "something unusual done to attract attention". An uncanny apt example is suggested: "The story was spread as a publicity stunt to help sell books."

A press release circulated with that dictionary earlier this week declared that it is now permissible to split the infinitive. The result was a rash of horrified stories in the media, and a pleasing amount of publicity for Oxford University Press's newest product.

Never mind that Chambers, Oxford's sworn rival in the dictionary market, made a similar pronouncement two years ago.

Battle has been joined in the cerebral world of lexicography. Yesterday was publication day for *The New Oxford*. Next Monday the brand new edition of *Chambers* hits the bookshops. Next month sees the updated *Collins English Dictionary*.

The timing chosen by the three leading publishers is not coincidental. Competition has never been so fierce, and this is a crucial period, with the academic year beckoning and Christmas a few months away.

It is a lucrative market - five million dictionaries are sold annually - and the latest skirmish centres on the most profitably part of it: middle-range volumes, the "household" size used by families, crossword lovers and Scrabble fanatics.

Talking of Scrabble, who would have thought that a cosy board game would end up as a lethal marketing weapon?

One of the principal boasts of the Chambers dictionary is that it is the game's official reference source. *The Shorter Oxford* surrendered that accolade 10 years ago when it took the ill-advised step of splitting into two unwieldy volumes.

Chambers is the middle-range market leader, but others are snapping at its heels. Perhaps it is defensiveness that makes it brag that its revised version offers "the richest range of the English language from Shakespeare to the present day".

The claims of its competitors

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<b>PRICE</b>				
<b>ENTRIES</b>	350,000 words, phrases and definitions	215,000 references and 300,000 definitions	140,000 definitions	180,000 references, 196,000 definitions
<b>WHAT PUBLISHERS CLAIM</b>	Foremost authority and most comprehensive coverage	Largest and most comprehensive	Voted the world's best dictionary	Foremost authority and best-selling
<b>SELLING POINT</b>	Liberal guide to grammar; many proper names	Official reference guide for scrabble	Usage notes; places; brief biographies	Usage notes; 10 meanings given for "the"
<b>'IN' WORDS</b>	Dweeb, wonk, G-spot, Tamagotchi, phwoah	Bobbit, G-spot, dweeb, wonk	Dweeb, G-spot, wonk	Dweeb
<b>'OUT' WORDS</b>	Bobbitt	Phwoah, Tamagotchi	Bobbit, phwoah, Tamagotchi	Bobbit, dweeb
<b>HOW GOOD?</b>	Over-ambitious but almost succeeds	An absolute delight for logophiles	Useful, all-purpose, all-rounder	Good value, basic; no worse for that

are equally absurd. Collins calls itself "the people's dictionary", and portentously describes its updated volume as the "millennium edition". The new Oxford hails itself a "landmark in the description of English".

Updates take place with increasing frequency. The middle-range Chambers, for example, is now revised every five years, reflecting the speed with which language evolves as well as the improved technology for collecting and tracking words.

ictionaries are similar to baked beans, according to David Swarbrick, marketing director of Oxford Dictionaries.

"In this most academic area of publishing, brand is of foremost importance," he said. "This is true of all consumers, regardless of whether they regard a dictionary as a utilitarian product, a work of great scholarship or a method of intellectual hygiene."

Even the lexicographers in their rarified world are aware of the pressures of an increasingly cut-throat market. Judy Pearsall, who compiles for Oxford University Press, says research shows that clarity of entries is of pivotal importance.

It is all a far cry from the world of Samuel Johnson, who slaved away in a Gough Street

during a "trial by ordeal". He also lists endorsements by celebrities such as Michael Palin ("I'd be lost without my Chambers") and Claire Rayner ("Not only do top lawyers recommend it, but agony aunts adore it").

Johnson would have disapproved of the latest grammatical edict on split infinitives. "I do not teach men how to think, but relate how they have hitherto expressed their thoughts," he wrote.

He was, however, addressing only the most literate. "Of the laborious and mercantile part of the people, the diction is in a great measure casual and mutable," he wrote. "This fugitive cant cannot be regarded as any part of the durable materials of a language."

John Sutherland, Review, page 4

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John Sutherland, Review, page 4



Samuel Johnson (left) hated split infinitives, while Judy Pearsall, of Oxford University Press, (right) says clarity is the key to a dictionary's success

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## Press gag sought to stop paedophile lynch mobs

BY GARY FINN  
NEWSPAPERS COULD be banned from reporting the movements of paedophiles to protect police surveillance and the work of probation officers.

The curb is being sought by chief probation officers concerned by the growing number of vigilante gangs wrecking attempts to resettle sex offenders.

The Association of Chief Officers of Probation (Acop) says hysterical national and regional journalism is the main cause of public disquiet. The group will meet the Press Complaints Commission next week to discuss new reporting guidelines.

The plea to the media for a self-imposed gagging order has been heightened by the continuing failure of the Home Of-

fers to find a permanent home for paedophile Robert Oliver.

On Wednesday he was refused a place in a hostel in Rutland amid fears that his arrival would damage community relations and disrupt the rehabilitation of other residents.

Yesterday, *The Independent* revealed that the situation has forced the Government to consider the provision of specially built paedophile units.

Some paedophiles have been driven underground, fearing for their safety. Others have been beaten and forced to flee their homes by mob action.

Innocent people including relatives of offenders, or even

of his own. He lives in a room with no windows because they're always smashed and he always gets abuse when he goes out. It's so unfair."

Acop said confrontations have included threats to nail an offender to a tree, sustained harassment of the elderly and mentally subnormal sister of a minor sex offender and the publication of detailed addresses of offenders.

The Guild of Editors said it was already discussing new codes of conduct with police and probation services. It added: "If the Press Complaints Commission is to consider this issue then the regional press would be happy to engage in the debate."

## Historic mould yields £8,050

A SMALL piece of mould that changed the face of medicine was sold yesterday for £8,050 at auction.

The sample, sealed in a two-inch-diameter glass container, was bought by a Cheltenham-based autograph collector on behalf of an American firm.

Believed to have come from the original penicillium notatum mould, its underside was signed by the discoverer of penicillin, Alexander Fleming, a year before his death. It reads: "Penicillium notatum - the mould that makes penicillin. Alexander Fleming, 1954."

BY IAN SHOESMITH

Bidding at the London sale for the item, described by Christie's auctioneer and medical expert Jeremy Collins as "an extremely important part of medical history", was tense.

Starting at £1,800, the offers came flooding in until only two heavyweight bidders remained.

A mystery telephone bidder offered £6,500 before a representative of John Wilson Autographs Ltd in Cheltenham came in with a bid of £7,000 to take the medical souvenir.

When the buyer's premium of

15 per cent is added, the price is £9,050.

The representative said: "I believe that there are other pieces of penicillin but I am absolutely thrilled to have bought this piece." Mr Collins thought that only five pieces had been sold in the past 20 years and that "any museum which has a serious collection should have one".

Penicillin was discovered by Fleming, a Scot, in 1928 and was ready for commercial use by 1940. The development of the drug saved the lives of thousands of soldiers during the Second World War and Fleming, with two colleagues, went on to share the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1945.

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pieces of penicillin but I am absolutely thrilled to have bought this piece." Mr Collins thought that only five pieces had been sold in the past 20 years and that "any museum which has a serious collection should have one".

Penicillin was discovered by Fleming, a Scot, in 1928 and was ready for commercial use by 1940. The development of the drug saved the lives of thousands of soldiers during the Second World War and Fleming, with two colleagues, went on to share the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1945.

Christie's auctioneer and medical expert Jeremy Collins as "an extremely important part of medical history", was tense.

Starting at £1,800, the offers came flooding in until only two heavyweight bidders remained.

A mystery telephone bidder offered £6,500 before a representative of John Wilson Autographs Ltd in Cheltenham came in with a bid of £7,000 to take the medical souvenir.

When the buyer's premium of

15 per cent is added, the price is £9,050.

The representative said: "I believe that there are other

Random checks on sick workers

BY RANDEEP KANESH  
Transport Correspondent

TRAIN WORKERS off sick face random visits by managers after illness rates doubled at one of the biggest private rail firms, documents leaked to *The Independent* reveal.

Sick leave is costing English, Welsh & Scottish, which operates 90 per cent of all the rail freight in Britain, nearly £7m a year.

Bernard Reid, a senior manager with the company, has written to all its railway workers in Scotland, saying that sickness rates have doubled since the management negotiated a deal with the workforce.

"It is my belief that not all of this sickness is genuine," Mr Reid wrote earlier this month.

"Anybody reporting sick will be visited at their home that day by a supervisor."

"If the visit is declined, then no hours will be credited for the period."

The new regime will affect those staff who have taken off five days or more in the previous 12 months - more than 40 per cent of the workforce.

Mr Reid also highlighted the detrimental effect of the World Cup on his workforce's apparent health. "The worst period for sickness... was during the World Cup."

A similar sentiment was felt by London Underground management in June, when a strike called by the Rail, Maritime and Transport union fell on the same day as the first England game.

Mr Reid, who is the head of the Scottish division of English, Welsh & Scottish, also warned workers not to abuse the current system.

After a visit to a local Jobcentre, Mr Reid reminded workers that many are paid £25,000 a year.

"There are loads of jobs out there at £24 an hour... It is only a matter of time before someone is visiting the very Jobcentre on a more formal basis than mine."

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Random checks on sick workers

# Clinton leads America in mourning

PRESIDENT CLINTON interrupted preparations yesterday for his grand jury testimony on Monday to lead the United States in mourning the 12 Americans killed in last Friday's Nairobi bombing.

Looking sorrowful, at times almost haggard, but always dignified, Mr Clinton paid tribute to the dead, many of whom were young, as "a portrait of America today and of America's tomorrow".

Pledging that "no matter what it takes, we must find those responsible for these evil acts and ensure that justice is done", he told the mourners and the worldwide television audience, "America will not retreat from the world and all its promise, nor shrink from our responsibility to stand against terror and with the friends of freedom everywhere". In the light of Kenyan criticism, Mr Clinton judiciously paid equal tribute early in his oration to the Kenyans and Tanzanians who were also killed.

Mr Clinton was accompanied by his wife, Hillary, and members of the Administration. Tears flowed as they watched 10 coffins, draped in the Stars and Stripes, being unloaded from the plane that had brought them from Germany, and borne each to its own hearse at the edge of an aircraft hanger.

There were hearse also for the two bodies not repatriated with the rest: one, married to a Kenyan, was to be buried in Kenya. The other was repatriated early at the request of her family.

Yesterday's ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base, near Washington, combined the ad hoc and serviceable elements of a military base with the measured ceremonial and high-flown rhetoric of a national tribute.

The Defence Secretary, William Cohen, spoke first and paid tribute to the dead as among those who "serve on the frontline of democracy". The Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, dressed in black like Mrs Clinton, looked exhausted after her 24-hour transatlantic journey to escort the bodies, but talked tough. Terrorism, she said, is not a form of political expression. "It is certainly not a manifestation of religious faith. It is murder plain and simple."

Before the 45-minute cere-

mony, Mr Clinton met family and friends of the dead privately, spending more than five minutes with each.

The tears and theatre of national mourning diverted attention, if only temporarily, from two simmering diplomatic controversies. The previous evening, the US ambassador to Kenya, Prudence Bushnell, who was slightly injured in the bombing, disclosed that she had twice in the past year requested a new embassy building in Nairobi for security reasons.

Both requests had been rejected on cost grounds. First in December; then in a direct communication to Madeleine Albright in May, Ms Bushnell "indicated that resource constraints were endangering embassy personnel", the State Department's assistant secretary for administration, Patrick Kennedy, told reporters.

With his voice cracking with emotion, Mr Kennedy said: "Unfortunately, we simply lack the money to respond immediately to all the needs of embassy construction."

Then he dropped the diplomatic language and went on: "Look, I've been a foreign service officer for 25 years. And if anybody thinks that everyone in this department isn't sick about this, they're just wrong. We did the very best we could, given what we had."

He and other senior State Department officials stressed that embassies were graded in terms of their assessed risk factor, and neither Nairobi nor the other embassy bombed, in Dar es Salaam, were deemed high-risk posts.

Ms Bushnell herself went on Kenyan television on Wednesday night to express American sympathy for Kenya's losses - 20 Kenyans were killed for every American - and try to defuse perceptions in Nairobi that Americans had been more interested in helping their own and protecting their embassy than saving Kenyans.

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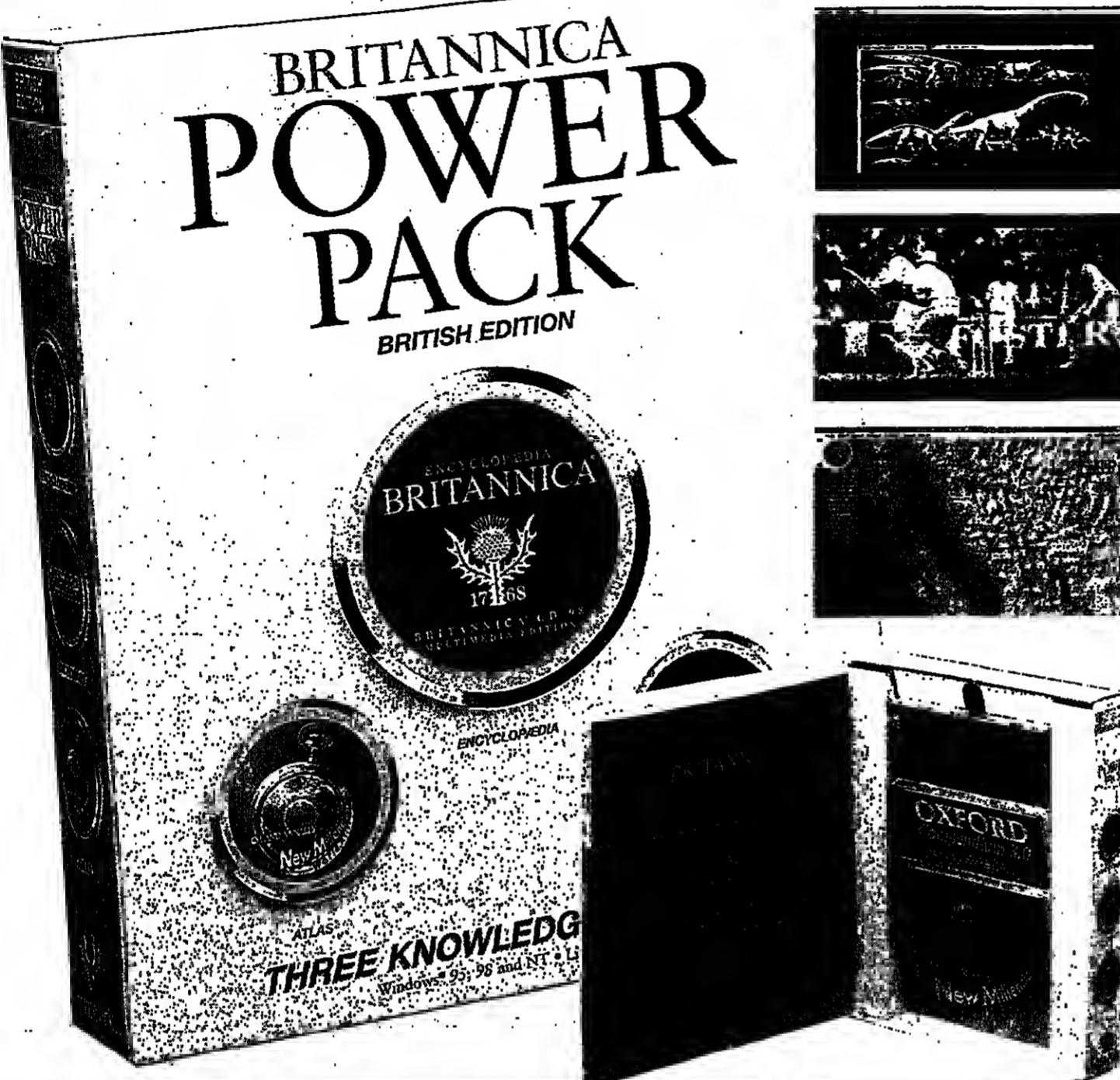
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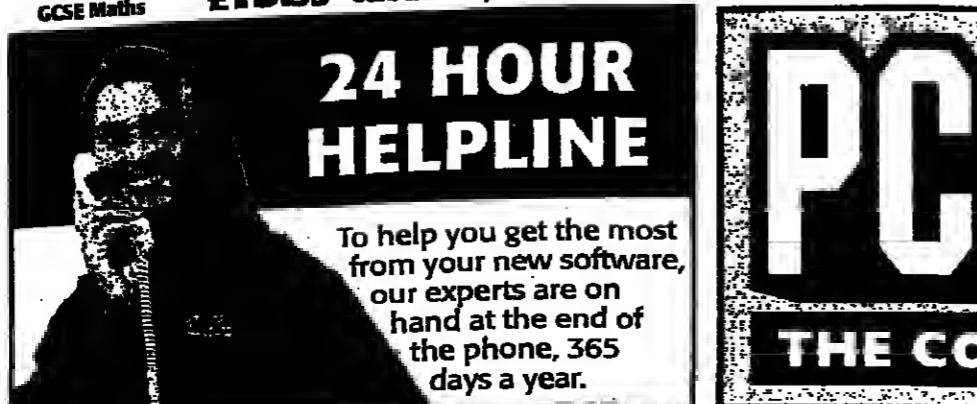


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# Flooding erodes order in China

BY TERESA POOLE  
in Peking

LAW AND ORDER is starting to break down in disaster-struck areas of China after more than a month of severe floods. The Supreme People's Court has ordered the legal authorities in flood-ravaged areas "to work around the clock" and to give priority to cases of "destruction of public facilities, stealing, robbing or raping flood victims, dereliction of duty, misappropriation of relief funds and goods, spreading rumours or hoarding and profiteering".

Maintaining "social stability" is as much a priority for the Chinese government as securing the water-logged dykes. Peasants have resisted forced evacuation from lands that have been purposefully flooded to divert water from downstream urban areas.

Millions of rural inhabitants are camped out along dykes in unhygienic shanty villages, many saying that they want to stay near their submerged bones because of looters.

The People's Daily newspaper reported crimes related to breaking the dykes, explosives, poison and sabotage. The "embezzlement or misappropriation of relief funds and goods" should be dealt with, it said.

The official death toll has not been updated for almost two



Children living in tents at Wuhan, China, after floods drove them out of their homes

Bobby Yip/Reuters

weeks and stands vaguely at "more than 2,000". Casualties in specific dyke breaches are not reported.

The positive spin on flood reporting has produced some ludicrous moments. Earlier this week, the main television

news programme featured footage of a woman squirting breast milk on top of a soldier's head to treat burns he had received in the fight.

With 17.6 million homes destroyed or submerged, and China's GDP growth hit by the

losses, the Xinhua news agency yesterday even tried to present some good economic news.

"The floods delayed some infrastructure projects and weakened consumer spending in rural areas, but the large-scale home rebuilding activity after

the floods is expected to stimulate consumer spending," it said.

Industry, agriculture and even the oil fields have been devastated in the flood zones, and economic losses are estimated at about \$24bn.

The Labour opposition has described the package as un-

BY JOANNA JOLLY  
in Sydney

fair, saying it takes away from ordinary Australians without giving enough back. Social welfare and consumer groups fear the benefits promised may not be affordable because of the Asian economic crisis.

Although John Howard has yet to announce a date, the conservative Liberal-National coalition government is expected to call an election later this year, having given Australians time to digest the proposed tax changes. If they are passed, Australians will have to pay a broad-based consumption tax for the first time.

Basing an election on tax reform is a bold move for a government that so far has had little success in selling its policies to Australians.

Despite winning with a large majority in 1996, opinion polls in June recorded the lowest level of support for the government since the election.

Mr Howard has been regarded by many as a bland leader who lacks vision. His "back to basics" policies, evoking an Australia of the Fifties, have been unpopular with many Australians who feel his approach is too conservative.

The coalition government has particularly lost support among rural Australians, traditional supporters of the National Party, who feel deserted by the government.

Economic rationalist policies have been blamed for taking health and banking services away from the bush and rural Australians are angry about policies such as the government's stringent gun ownership laws, brought in after the 1996 Port Arthur massacre.

According to Gerard Henderson, director of the political think tank the Sydney Institute, the government's biggest failing has been its inability to develop and sell an agenda to tackle the concerns they exploited before the last election.

# Premier plans tax revolution for Australia

AUSTRALIA'S PRIME Minister announced the most comprehensive tax reform package in the country's history yesterday, including a consumption tax, on which he plans to fight a federal election.

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The new package proposes to introduce a 10 per cent goods and services tax (GST) by July 2000, which the coalition government estimates will yield A\$27bn (£16bn) in revenue in its first year. Health, education, childcare, rates and charities will be exempt.

To compensate for the tax, the government is proposing a A\$13bn cut in income tax and family-related cuts. Mr Howard described the package as "immensely visionary" and added: "We wanted a broad base; the broader the base, the lower the rate."

This is not the first time a government has tried to introduce a goods and services tax in Australia. In 1993, the then opposition conservative coalition lost the election on a consumption tax platform.

Despite stating in 1995 that he would "never ever" introduce a consumption tax, Mr Howard is staking the future of his government on public acceptance of this plan. Business leaders have already given their blessing.

The Labour opposition has

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offer on Whirlpool and Appliances. \*Whirlpool 599 RRP includes a £100 cashback offer, excluding installation. Dishwasher A£179.00. 10 year guarantee per kitchen purchase.

# Island of dreams turns into a jail

EUROPEAN TIMES

LAMPEDUSA, ITALY

"Clandestini" detained at Lampedusa *L'Ansa*

UNTIL RECENTLY there was no ambulance on the island of Lampedusa, only a couple of policemen who dealt with any type of emergency. "Shrubs are so rare that if we hear one everyone starts phoning the extended family to check they're all right," says Giandomenico Lombardo, leader of the local hoteliers' association.

Phone bills must have soared over the past couple of months. Migrant seas and fine weather have brought more illegal immigrants than ever flooding across from north Africa to this sleepy Italian island set in a breathtaking sapphire sea.

This rocky outcrop 60 miles off the Tunisian coast is the first line in the battle to keep the *clandestini* on their side of the Mediterranean. Coastguard vessels fill the harbour; there's a police car on every corner and sirens wail... well, several times a day at least.

"They go screaming at full speed down the main street in the evening, when it's a pedestrian precinct," says Mr Lombardo, shaking his head. "We can't cope with that. This is a slow-moving island. People simply aren't used to leaping out of the way."

Similarly, Lampedusa's 5,000-strong community - which depends on fishing and tourism for its living - is unused to seeing the island portrayed in a story-hungry summer press as a rough, violent outpost of European civilisation. Switch on any Italian television news programme and you'll see deported Tunisians and Moroccans in disorderly ranks on the quay of the pretty harbour as they are searched and registered before being marched off to temporary accommodation in an old barracks near the airport. Or you'll see them transformed into furious aggressors, setting fire to that accommodation as they engage in hand-to-hand combat with the forces of law and order.

Wandering around the island, the scene could not be more different: bronzed, parasol-toting visitors stroll lazily from hotel to beach or buzz round the island in noisy little Mokes. The hotels are packed, the white sand body-

lined, the azure coves dotted with pleasure craft. And if small groups of curious onlookers gather on the quay from time to time as another boatload of aspiring immigrants is brought in, it's only to be expected: the influx has been going on almost non-stop since 1996, and *clandestini* are accepted as part of the scenery. Not so the new high-profile police presence.

"It's overkill," says Mr Lombardo. "All right, so the



numbers of *clandestini* making it over are growing. But we've always got on well with our immigrants. Now that the coast is patrolled more efficiently, they're escorted in by coastguards. Before, they used to come ashore by themselves, politely ask the way to the police station, pick up their free ticket to Sicily, and that was the last we saw of them. We'd give them something to eat and drink, or maybe some clothes." The only trouble there ever was, he adds, was explaining the way to the tiny police station.

This year's government crackdown has changed that

happy-go-lucky relationship. *Clandestini* know they face enforced repatriation; police know that their charges might go to desperate lengths to avoid it. Tension is high.

Why Lampedusa, where the economy will founder if tourists are scared away, should have been allowed to become the symbol of this desperation and tension is beyond residents. In the short term, it will not be hoteliers who suffer most but the fishermen who eke out a living with the island's ever-shrinking fleet.

"Oh I'll be all right," admits Mr Lombardo. "I do most of my business through agencies, which explain that the whole thing's been blown out of all proportion."

To supplement their meagre income from the sea, fisher-families rent out flats to tourists through the island's summer, which stretches with hardly a cloud in the sky, from May to November.

Many flats will be empty this year, their usual occupants scared away by tales of horror in Paradise. Hundreds of families will find themselves short of money through the winter. Some may be forced to abandon fishing altogether, and the harbour's rows of brightly coloured fishing boats may all but disappear. From being an occasional hiccup in the dozy calm of the summer, the sad spectacle of grim, illegal immigrants being marched from port to barracks to airport may come to symbolise the Lampedusa experience. And the tourist trade will begin to feel the pinch.

ANNE HANLEY



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# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### Chief of BiB on-line group quits

THE CHIEF executive of British Interactive Broadcasting, the joint venture which plans to launch on-line shopping and banking services next year, yesterday quit the group after just 10 months in the job. David Hilton, whose resignation was announced yesterday, becomes the second senior executive to quit BiB since it was founded 18 months ago. Last November, Peter van Gelder resigned as managing director after Mr Hilton was appointed above him.

A spokeswoman for BiB said: "David set himself certain goals when he joined here which he has achieved." Mr Hilton's replacement is James Ackerman, the Sky television executive who has been running Sky's joint-venture channels.

BiB was set up early in 1997 to develop interactive services which can be delivered to customers via satellite and cable television. The venture's other shareholders include British Telecom, Midland Bank and Matsushita. The Japanese electronics giant, BiB is providing the subsidy for the set-top boxes required to receive BSkyB's digital television services.

For most of its existence, however, the venture has been locked in negotiations with regulators at the European Commission. It finally received clearance last week, freeing up its shareholders formally to sign the joint venture agreement. It is now expected to sign up a string of large retailers and financial groups to its service.

### Huntingdon crashes on return

**HUNTINGDON**  
share price, pence

Source: Bloomberg

**SHARES IN** Huntingdon Life, the troubled drug testing company, crashed 30 per cent yesterday on their first day of trading after a 10-day suspension. The stock closed down 6p at 13.5p, the worst performer on the London stock market. The shares were restored to the list after Monday's announcement of a refinancing package which involves a £20m cash injection from a group of investors.

As part of the package, which has to be approved by shareholders at an extraordinary meeting on 2 September, Andrew Baker, a 49-year-old accountant, will become executive chairman. Huntingdon has been targeted by animal rights groups and has attributed the loss of lucrative contracts on this adverse publicity.

**STOCK MARKETS**

Source: Bloomberg

**INDICES**

Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk high	52 wk low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	5393.50	-82.00	-1.5%	6193.70	4382.80	8.9%
FTSE 250	5184.00	-60.30	-1.1%	5970.90	4428.80	3.87
FTSE 350	2903.70	-37.90	-1.4%	2999.10	2141.80	3.98
FTSE All Share	2539.67	-32.95	-1.2%	2886.52	2106.59	3.95
FTSE SmallCap	2333.10	-26.70	-1.1%	2793.80	2277.60	3.61
FTSE Midcap	1274.10	0.00	0.0%	1517.10	1225.20	3.72
FTSE AIM	1002.70	0.00	0.0%	1146.90	965.90	1.33
FTSE EBLOC 100	986.26	-5.63	-0.5%	1026.26	936.26	...
Dow Jones	8480.87	-24.70	-0.3%	9367.84	6971.32	1.73
Nikkei	15832.2	3.05	0.02%	19466.35	14888.21	0.99
Hong Kong	6660.42	-199.05	-3.0%	16555.51	6708.18	6.12
Dax	5356.23	-46.14	-0.85%	6217.83	3487.24	3.00

**INTEREST RATES**

Source: Bloomberg

**MONEY MARKET RATES**

Index	3 month	Yr Ago	Change	10 year	Yr Ago	Long bond	Yr Ago		
UK	7.73	0.48	-0.5%	7.65	0.54	5.64	-1.5%		
US	5.95	-0.08	-0.1%	5.92	-0.34	5.42	-0.6%		
Japan	0.68	0.07	0.6%	0.04	1.48	-0.89	2.02	-0.87	
Germany	3.40	-0.24	-0.7%	3.74	0.18	4.49	-1.22	5.16	-1.24

**BOND YIELDS**

Index	3 month	Yr Ago	Change	10 year	Yr Ago	Long bond	Yr Ago		
UK	7.73	0.48	-0.5%	7.65	0.54	5.64	-1.5%		
US	5.95	-0.08	-0.1%	5.92	-0.34	5.42	-0.6%		
Japan	0.68	0.07	0.6%	0.04	1.48	-0.89	2.02	-0.87	
Germany	3.40	-0.24	-0.7%	3.74	0.18	4.49	-1.22	5.16	-1.24

**CURRENCIES**

Index	3 month	Yr Ago	Change	10 year	Yr Ago	Long bond	Yr Ago
UK	1.626	-0.124	-0.7%	1.5819	0.6149	0.0726	-0.6322
DM/Mark	2.0082	+1.3%	2.9238	0.7867	+1.8%	0.7260	-0.3926
Yen	1.36	-0.1%	-0.1%	1.1641	145.07	-0.4%	115.75
Swiss	105.80	0.00	100.70	114.50	0.00	105.50	

**OTHER INDICATORS**

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Yield
Stocks (S)	11,63	0.54	18,29	1.5%
GDP (S)	284.65	2.40	324.45	1.5%
Services (S)	5.11	-0.14	4.48	1.5%
Base Rates	7.50	7.00		

SOURCE: BLOOMBERG

**TOURIST RATES**

Country	Close	Chg	Yr Ago	Yield
Australia (S)	2.6515	-0.05	18.29	1.5%
Austria (Schillings)	19.88			
Belgium (francs)	58.44			
Canada (S)	2.4126			
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8287			
Denmark (kroner)	10.85			
Finland (markka)	5.6573			
France (francs)	9.4828			
Germany (marks)	2.8385			
Greece (drachma)	476.23			
Hong Kong (S)	12.22			
Iceland (pounds)	1.1212			
India (rupees)	64.58			
Israel (shekels)	5.5830			
Italy (lira)	2805			
Japan (yen)	234.33			
Malaysia (ringgit)	6.5879			
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[www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com)

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# Richard Branson's private dilemma

THE HARDER they come, the harder they fall, one and all, as the singer Jimmy Cliff once put it. Jimmy was not one of Richard Branson's recording artists but the Virgin boss must get the idea.

This has not been one of Richard's better years. It began on an upbeat note with the High Court libel victory over Guy Snowden but it has been downhill since then. Both the *Economist* and the *Spectator* have taken swipes at the bearded one.

Shares in his airline business Virgin Express have begun to slide and his sale of a half stake in Virgin Rail to Sir John Souter was depicted as an act of desperation rather than a stroke of entrepreneurial brilliance. Now, he has been taken to task across two broadsheet pages by the *Financial Times*.

The Branson empire, as the *Pink 'Un* tells us, is cash flow negative and has a habit of destroying "faith rather than creating it". Judged against the fashionable theory of economic value added, Virgin fails the test.

That is to say, its cost of capital outstrips its return on capital in the shape of profits to the tune



## OUTLOOK

of nearly £40m. What is more, the margin Virgin has to service its debts is becoming uncomfortably slim.

According to the *FT*, interest cover is now down to 1.2 times which would be uncomfortable even for a solid old public limited company let alone a group operating in highly volatile or cyclical markets such as air travel, retailing and entertainment.

Should any of this bother us? After all, people are still buying records in Virgin Megastores, boarding his Virgin Atlantic flights and buying his Virgin Direct Peps. What is more, there are precious few small investors to worry about

since the vast bulk of the Virgin empire remains in private hands and safely obscured behind a Byzantine structure of offshore trusts in the Channel Isles and British Virgin Islands. If Mr Branson falls, the crash will be mighty but at least he won't take many others down with him.

That rather presupposes he is heading for the drop. Mr Branson has been in tight spots before and got out of them. In 1992, with the tide of recession lapping at Virgin's shores, he sold the Virgin music publishing business to EMI for £510m.

In part, the proceeds were used to help pay off the debts he had accumulated by taking Virgin private again after its brief experimentation with a public listing. In part the proceeds were used to fund his cash hungry new ventures like the airline.

This time around, the nature of the problem is rather different. Mr Branson has learnt the lesson of gearing up too heavily just as the downturn arrives and has cleverly made sure that joint venture partners have stumped up the bulk of the cash. He has also ringfenced each of the Virgin businesses to

avoid cross contamination. This means that if one business gets into trouble, it does not have a call on another.

Even so the demands on Virgin's financial resources are piling up. Even with Stagecoach sharing half the burden, Virgin Trains will require a lot of capital while Mr Branson has to find £145m to fund his purchase of WH Smith's 75 per cent share of Virgin On Price. Then there are the cash demands of Virgin Cinemas, the new record company V2 and Virgin Trading.

In the past Mr Branson has sold his past to finance his future.

The obvious solution this time would be a public listing for Virgin Atlantic and perhaps Virgin Entertainment. But a flotation would mean an unwelcome return to the sort of disclosure and transparency requirements from which Mr Branson fled in the late 1980s. That is why he is seeking the alternative route of a high yield bond issue this autumn to raise as much as £300m. Will the capital markets buy it?

It is a matter of trust and judgement for, as the *FT* notes, it is impossible for an outsider to assess

the full extent of Mr Branson's resources or his profitability.

## The man who moves markets

GEORGE SOROS surely didn't intend to cause the Russian stock market to close its doors for business with his letter to the *Financial Times* yesterday warning of financial and economic meltdown in the former Soviet Republic. The trouble is that when someone as high profile in financial markets as Mr Soros makes these doomsday utterances, particularly in a situation as fragile as that faced by Russia, they tend to become self fulfilling.

Anything Mr Soros says or does has to be treated with the utmost suspicion. He seems much to prefer these days the business of travelling the world pontificating on matters of great importance to that of his trade as an international speculator.

Who wouldn't? And because financial markets rule all our lives as never before, everyone takes him very seriously, lapping up his pearls of wisdom.

But it should not be forgotten

that though Mr Soros has tended in recent years to take a back seat in his various hedge funds, he is not entirely divorced from them. Very often, he's talking his book.

All that said, we can perhaps give him the benefit of the doubt in this case. Actually Mr Soros has been a heavy investor in rouble assets, and although he's sold down a lot of them in recent months, it can hardly hurt his position to plunge the country into further turmoil. Moreover, both his analysis of the situation and his prescriptions for it seem to make a great deal of sense.

By devaluing, the IMF's dollar loans to Russia become worth more and the government would become that much more capable of servicing its rouble debt. As Mr Soros says, the outlook in the absence of such a move looks bleak.

Either there is a wide-scale default which would have catastrophic consequences both for the country and the wider international community, or the government would be forced to print money to pay its debts, leading possibly to hyperinflation.

More contentious is Mr Soros's suggestion that immediately after the devaluation, the G7 provides

Russia with sufficient reserves to start a currency board.

In the past, Mr Soros has been famously opposed to fixed exchange rates, but actually a currency board is a rather different animal to the dollar pegs of the Far East or Europe's exchange rate mechanism. By forcing the authorities to exchange the local currency for dollars, the effect is to apply a rigid and sometimes harsh monetary discipline that automatically guarantees whatever economic medicine the markets require. It worked wonders in Argentina while Hong Kong is a long standing role model for the virtues of the currency board.

The trouble is that Russia is so unstable politically and socially that there's no guarantee of long-term government commitment to such a system. And without that, it would lack international credibility from the start.

Mr Soros's formula for digging Russia out of its economic crisis is not going to be adopted lock stock and barrel, but he's right about the seriousness of the situation and he's made a useful contribution to the debate on how it might be corrected.

## IN BRIEF

### Home loans soar to four-year high

HOME LOAN advances soared to their highest level in four years in July, according to Barclays Mortgage Index. Gross lending rose 1.8 per cent to over £2bn compared with under £2bn in the same month a year ago.

But the chief of Barclays Mortgages, Jim Chadwick, said the growth was largely fuelled by remortgages based on competitively-priced fixed rates. The market continues to give mixed signals, with house prices showing modest increases but turnover weak and a shortage of properties for sale.

### Administration

ALLENWEST BRENTFORD, which has 150 employees and makes and installs power conversion equipment worldwide, has passed into administration.

Joint administrative receivers, Ralph Preece and Nick Dargan of Deloitte & Touche, say the rest of the Allenwest Group continues to trade as normal. "Allenwest Brentford has experienced trading difficulties for a prolonged period of time," they say. "We are currently assessing its ability to continue to trade and hope to sell the whole or part of its operations as a going concern."

### Vote on Fosters

FOSTERS Trading Company, with 40 menswear shops and 600 staff, is to be handed back to the directors after four months in the hands of BDO Stoy Hayward administrators. A vote by the company's creditors has finalised the handover.

Turnover at the stores in the four months of administration was nearly £30m, compared with £35m for the 173 stores running in 1997. Once the handover is complete there will be over £5m available for distribution to creditors.

### US sales fall

US RETAIL sales fell in July as stores shut down most of car maker General Motors' plants. Excluding cars, sales rose for the sixth time in seven months. July sales fell a smaller-than-expected 0.4 per cent to \$224.7bn (£138bn). The first fall in nine months - after rising by an unvised 0.1 per cent in June.

Excluding cars, July retail sales rose 0.5 per cent after falling 0.1 per cent in June.

## Consumers shop around for best electricity deals

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE SWITCH was pulled on electricity competition yesterday, with the announcement that 750,000 households will be allowed to shop around for a different supplier a month from now. Price reductions are likely to be in the region of 5 to 10 per cent.

Domestic competition will be launched on 14 September in 13 towns spread across four regions of the country. Initially, 10 per cent of households in each region will be able to switch supplier, with the remainder of

the area opened up to competition over a six-month period.

The full roll-out of competition to all 26 million domestic and small business users will not be completed until next June - 15 months later than originally planned. The cost of the exercise will be £726m, or £33 for every household.

The first four areas to be opened to competition next month will be the regions covered by Eastern Electricity.

The domestic gas market began being opened up to com-

petition in 1996. According to figures released yesterday by Ofgas, more than 3 million customers have deserted British Gas since then, tempted by offers of up to 20 per cent of their bills from rival suppliers.

The price cuts in electricity are expected to be more modest with bills falling by between 5 and 10 per cent at most. The take-up is also expected to be more gradual, with around 5 per cent of households forecast to switch supplier compared with 15 per cent for gas.

## Severn Trent gets ready by buying names

BY MICHAEL HARRISON

THE WATER company, Severn Trent, has bought up the names of 19 other water companies around the country in a bid to snatch business from its rivals if the industry is ever opened to competition.

A Severn Trent spokesman confirmed yesterday that it had registered the names of eight water companies outside its area and a further 11 inside its own territory. Most of the company names cover large cities.

Severn Trent said it had no immediate plans to start trading under the new names, but the spokesman added: "We follow the motto 'Be Prepared'. Severn Trent means something to customers inside our own area but to those outside it may mean nothing at all."

The names, published in the magazine *Utility Week*, includes Manchester Water, Midlands Water, Norwich Water, Leeds Water, Sheffield Water and Capital Water for London. The names were registered two months ago to an address at Severn Trent's headquarters

in Birmingham. All the companies have the same two named directors: Caroline Wilkinson, Severn Trent's assistant company secretary, and Gerald Noone, who is marketing director of Severn Trent Water.

Severn Trent would not disclose how much the exercise had cost but a spokesman said it was not significant. He said the purpose of registering names within the Severn Trent region was to defend its own territory from attack. Among these names are Derby Water, Stoke Water, Leicester Water, Nottingham Water and Birmingham and District Water.

"Competition already exists for our largest customers. The fact that it hasn't actually happened yet for domestic customers does not mean that it couldn't happen."

No other publicly quoted water company has registered names, although South West registered the name "Water West" in March.

### £1.5bn deals help revive PFI

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA



London Underground's power distribution network is to undergo a £1m refurbishment

generated by two power stations. But within two years London Underground will be free to buy electricity directly from suppliers and distribute it through the new network.

Under the terms of the Manchester deal, the McAlpine-led consortium, which includes project manager WS Atkins, will build and maintain a 320-bed acute care unit and a 77-bed mental unit. Although the total cost of the buildings, expected to open in 2001, is only £66m, the contractors are set to gain £520m fees for maintaining the facilities for 35 years.

Under the PFI, private firms undertake to provide part of the capital and to take on some of the risks associated with building and operating public projects in return for a stream of fees over a number of years.

The Manchester deal is only the seventh PFI hospital contract to be signed since the initiative was launched by the Tories in the late 1980s as a way of reducing public spending on infrastructure projects.

The scheme has proved a

success in roadbuilding. But in the health sector, the initiative has been dogged by contractual disputes between private firms and NHS authorities. The Labour government has pledged to revive the PFI in the health sector and has promised to begin construction on 15 new hospitals by the end of the year.

## Beer comes in 13/4 pint glasses.

## Women stuck on lower wages

BY TREVOR WEBSTER

WOMEN in full-time jobs can easily break through the "glass ceiling" of promotion, but it isn't an automatic route to equal wages. They are then stuck on the "sticky floor" of lower wages than male colleagues in similar positions.

That is the main finding of a report, titled "Glass ceilings or Sticky Floors", by Alison Booth, Marco Francesconi and Jeff Frank, of the University of Essex. They claim that, on average, full-time women's wages are 17 per cent lower than men's and equal promotion opportunities don't close the gap. The authors base their find-

ings on a British Household Panel Survey between 1992 and 1995, and dismiss the popular view that women are promoted less than men because of a "glass ceiling" of covert discrimination. They even suggest women might have a slight edge in the promotion stakes because in that period full-time male workers had only a 9.2 per cent chance of promotion compared to 11.6 per cent for full-time women.

But at that point they believe discrimination against women takes its toll. Promoted men receive wages 20.4 per cent higher than un promoted men, whereas promoted women gain wages only 9.8 per cent higher than un promoted women. It gets worse on the way up the career ladder. For otherwise identical men and women, if both experienced three promotions, a man would gain real wage growth of 32 per cent, while a woman would gain only 7 per cent. "We assume that there is discrimination in the sense that women in the post-promotion job are treated as being less productive than men, even though, objectively, their productivity is exactly the same," the authors stated.

more likely to be promoted than unskilled workers.

Ms Booth said: "We use the term 'sticky floors' to describe the situation where women are promoted and receive a wage increase, but then find it hard subsequently to gain higher wages. While some women can get through the 'glass ceiling', they remain stuck to the promotion wage floor after that."

"Over 180,000 men continued

to gain from past promotions,

while women did not. The dynamic effect of promotion on wage growth is therefore likely to exacerbate the already large gender gap in wages."

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Random checks on sick workers

# Business Post brings back Kane brothers

BY TREVOR WEBSTER

**BUSINESS POST**, the fast-growing express parcels and letter delivery group, is back in the firm grip of its founders, brothers Peter and Michael Kane, after a major shake-up in the board.

Trouble was signalled a fortnight ago at the group's annual meeting when the chairman, Neil Benson, disclosed that managing director Mick Jones, was leaving "to pursue other interests" and Peter Kane would return as an executive director from 1 September.

There are also plans to appoint two new non-executive di-



Peter Kane returns as executive director after two executives decided to quit

rectors shortly to replace the Kane brothers in those roles.

Shares in the group, which slumped from a June peak of 957.5p to around 630p after selling by Mr Jones and Mr Montague-Johnstone and the annual meeting statement, plunged another 52.5p to 575p as the scale of the board shake-up became clear yesterday.

Peter Kane expressed his regret that Mr Jones had decided to quit, but emphasised that

it was "a personality matter, not a business-related decision".

He said that Mr Montague-Johnstone was seeking other opportunities.

Mr Kane was also at pains to stress the good record of the business and its continued buoyancy, high operating margins and improving sales. He highlighted the 17 per cent rise in first-quarter sales reported at the annual meeting and "solid organic growth", but

warned that this year would see more bias than usual towards the second half.

Peter Kane, 52, and Michael founded Business Post in 1971 and still own a combined 63.5 per cent. They floated their shares in June 1993 at 120p and stepped down as chairman and chief executive in 1996 and 1997 respectively.

Analysts expect group profits to rise from £19.5m to £22.5m in the year to March 1999.

## Ceramics group in fourth profit warning

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

**FORTMEIRION** Potteries, the troubled ceramics group, showed further cracks yesterday when it issued its fourth profit warning in the space of 12 months.

Fortmeirion warned that profits for the year to December would "inevitably" be below those of the previous year, knocking its shares down 12.5p to a new five-year low of 190p.

Meanwhile, the company revealed that it had paid out £393,000 in "compensation costs and professional fees" to two ex-directors, including Mary-Lorraine Hughes, the former chief executive who quit Fortmeirion after its June profit warning.

The pay-offs helped to explain the sharp fall in Portmeirion's first-half profits, which slumped by 62 per cent to £1.05m. Turnover slipped by 18 per cent to £13.3m. It blamed the shortfall on "increasingly competitive and difficult trading conditions" throughout the first half. In previous statements, the company has blamed poor results on the strong pound, which discouraged tourists from visiting the UK.

The company is planning a further announcement in October about its vacant chief executive's position. Kamal Farbadi, a director, has been acting chief executive since Ms Hughes left.

Fortmeirion said it was planning extensive advertising campaigns in the United States and the UK to boost sales. It said the UK campaign, which was drawn up with the help of consultants, would focus the brand on "contemporary lifestyles" and support its Options line, which was launched earlier this year.

Euan Cooper-Willis, the chairman, said the company's strong balance sheet would allow it to develop and market a major new collection while maintaining an investment in new plant and equipment.

The company said that despite the shortfall it had decided to hold its interim dividend at 3.5p per share.

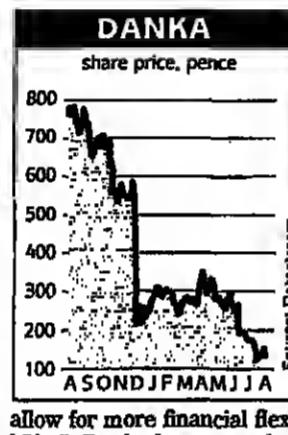
## Danka profits fall as Kodak merger integration takes toll

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

**DANKA** Business Systems, the troubled photocopier distributor, yesterday served up more bad news when it reported a 62 per cent fall in first-quarter profits.

Danka shares, which have dropped from a high of 787p last year after the company issued two profits warnings, dropped 16.5p to 132.5p as it reported that profits in the three months to 30 June had fallen to £1.1m from £20.8m in the same period of the previous year. Turnover in the quarter declined from £51.0m to £46.3m.

The company also revealed that it had renegotiated some of its banking covenants "to



allow for more financial flexibility". Danka has more than £450m of debt on its balance sheet. In the first quarter, operating profits covered its interest bill less than two times.

Mark Vaughan-Lee, the Danka chairman, blamed the profit fall on problems integrating Kodak Office Imaging, the photocopier distribution business bought in 1996.

He said the company had suffered problems motivating its sales force in the US after introducing a new bonus scheme. However, he added that the sales force was now beginning to accept the new scheme. "We are right in the middle of a very expensive integration plan," said Mr Vaughan-Lee.

Danka was also hit by the falling yen, which allowed Japanese copier makers to offer discounts for large contracts.

Mr Vaughan-Lee said that shifting Kodak's operations on

to Danka's computer system should be completed by the end of the year, allowing more cost savings. He added that the company had already reduced its workforce by 700 out of the 1,000 redundancies planned at the time of the acquisition.

Danka has found a new chief financial officer and plans to name him later this month. The company has appointed two senior executives in the US.

Mr Vaughan-Lee stressed that, despite Danka's problems, the board remained supportive of the management team. "We are putting the company into the position of being one of the top document management companies in the world. But it's a question of time."



Michael Bright (batting), chief executive, and Garth Nansay, chairman of Independent Insurance, the fast-growing composite insurer and insurer of the Oval, home to Surrey cricket club. The group is looking at a number of acquisitions to bolster its fledgling European

business, the chief executive, Michael Bright, said yesterday.

The company is targeting the French and Spanish markets where it already has a presence. Mr Bright said an acquisition

on the Continent was more likely than a UK purchase. His comments came as Independent Insurance reported an interim operating profit of £22.7m, slightly ahead of last year's £22.3m on gross premiums down to £250.5m from £269.9m.

### COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	Ex-Dividend
Flintlock (F)	86.8m (51.04m)	1.02m (5.1m)	1.84p (-3.85p)	- (1)	30.10.98	21.09.98
Independent Insurance (I)	- (1)	38.5m (25.5m)	11.3p (-7.3p)	2.10p (2.25p)	27.11.98	24.08.98
Justerini & Brooks (I)	11.26m (14.05m)	-6.65m (4.71m)	-5.3p (24.1p)	- (10p)	-	-
Montagu (I)	10.17m (7.53m)	-1.23m (0.12m)	-1.12p (0.11p)	- (10p)	-	-
MSA Petroleum (I)	- (1)	-7.73m (-0.587m)	-6.3p (-5.3p)	- (10p)	-	-
Oxford Biomedica (SP) **	5.0m (0.8m)	-1.03m (-1.25m)	-2.0p (-2.1p)	- (3.0p)	02.10.98	14.09.98
Petroleum Potash (I)	13.25m (16.15m)	1.05m (2.74m)	0.88p (17.31p)	- (3.0p)	-	-
Quexes Group (I)	2.95m (0.58m)	-6.47m (-5.94m)	-27.0p (-25.0p)	- (1)	-	-

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (SP) - Net Profit \* EPS is pre-exceptional \* Dividend to be paid as a FD \*\* Latest figures for 6 mths, comparatives 9 mths

## Shares slide as Vaux denies takeover talks

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

VAUX'S SHARES slumped 11 per cent yesterday, wiping £50m from the pub-to-hotels group's market value after the company denied that it was in takeover talks.

In a terse six-line statement, Vaux, owner of the Swallow Hotels chain, two brewerries and about 700 pubs, put an end to two weeks of intense bid speculation, which had led to a sharp rise in its share price.

Vaux "is not in any discussions which may lead to an offer for the company, or which relate to any of the group's assets," the statement said.

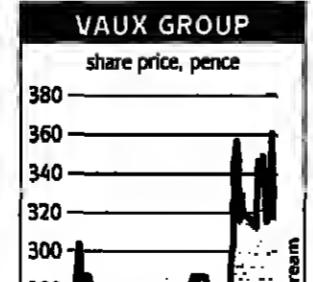
The announcement triggered a wave of selling that left

Enterprise Inns, which was mentioned as a bidder.

The two companies have been periodically linked with Vaux since June when the Sunderland-based group announced the breakdown of talks discussions with a bidder - widely believed to be the hotel group Stakis.

The rumour mill had indicated that Whittread as a possible suitor, suggesting that the brewing giant could be interested in bolstering its Marriot Hotel and Travel Inns hotel chain through the acquisition of Swallow.

According to the rumours, Whittread would be likely to offload Vaux's pub estate with



Enterprise Inns, which was mentioned as a bidder.

The two companies have been periodically linked with Vaux since June when the Sunderland-based group announced the breakdown of talks discussions with a bidder - widely believed to be the hotel group Stakis.

City analysts yesterday said that the takeover speculation was likely to resurface in the near future as most investors believe the 34 Swallow Hotels would be better off as part of another hotel business.

"In Vaux you have a four-star nation-wide hotel chain whose rating has been pulled down by a poor-to-average

pub estate," one observer said.

However, other experts said that the new chief executive, Martin Grant, who was recently recruited from Allied Domecq, could choose to spin off the Swallow business and float it on the market as a stand-alone business.

In Vaux you have a four-star nation-wide hotel chain whose rating has been pulled down by a poor-to-average

The last day of the month, after schools broke up and with the weather remaining chilly, also established a new daily record with 402,000 passengers streaming through BAA airports.

Last month's growth was inflated by the impact of last summer's strike at British Airways, which reduced total

## Why so many drop out of the New Deal



**PAM MEADOWS**

Young people who don't need much help are getting too much, and others not getting enough

term view. It targets those whose youngest child is at primary school, but only offers help in finding a job.

Research evidence suggests that lone parents who have some educational qualifications are more likely to be working than those who do not. As a result, lone parents dependent on income support are likely to have few or no educational or vocational qualifications. This in turn means that their potential earnings are relatively low.

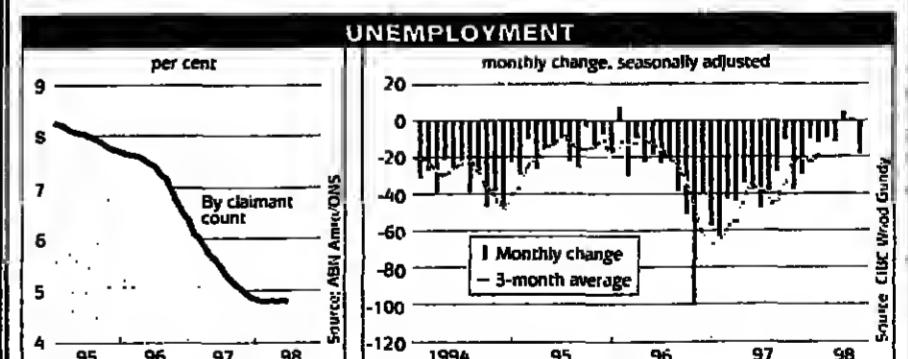
However, this does not mean that they do not want to work at some time in the future. The one thing that would equip them to meet that ambition would be the opportunity to improve their qualifications and equip them for the modern labour market.

Better qualifications would also help them to keep a job once they have got one, and to make subsequent career progress. Reducing benefit dependency among lone parents is a long-term ambition. Helping people to help themselves is central to the Government's philosophy. Yet the New Deal for lone parents does not offer them the opportunity to spend part of their children's early years in primary school investing in themselves. They can be helped to get a job in a supermarket now, but they cannot be helped to take a course in word processing and office skills that would enable them to get a better job in a year or so's time.

The New Deal is a classic example of public expenditure addressing the wrong problem. The young people who do not seem to need much help are getting too much, and the other groups who are not working, the one million lone parents dependent on income support and the unemployed over 40s, are not getting enough.

Why does the Government not reallocate the resources? One reason is that help for young people was a manifesto pledge, and unfortunately this means it takes priority over more effective use of the money. Another is probably a fear that it is too good to last. Events over the next two to three months will reveal whether the economy is in line for a slowdown - in which case unemployment may rise, but not dramatically - or for a full-blown recession, in which case the Government will need to have a large programme in place to cope with the rapid increase in the numbers eligible for the New Deal. Only time will tell.

Pamela Meadows is a senior research fellow at the National Institute of Economic and Social Research.



per cent

monthly change, seasonally adjusted

Source: DSS/ONS/ONS

1994 95 96 97 98

Source: CBI/Workforce

1994 95 96 97 98

High Low Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code	High Low Stock	Price	Chg	Yld	P/E	Code
<b>ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES</b>											
894 422 Allianz Brew	1055.0	-0.9	4.3	161.0	AB	405 300 Heublein	365.0	0.0	31.1	155.273	HEU
405 295 Adelsberg P	152.0	-1.9	5.1	161.112	ADL	111 101 Heublein	72.0	-0.2	47.2	41.0	HEU
94 0 0 Bausch & Co	111.0	-0.0	3.3	152.150	BAS	115 105 Heublein	60.0	-0.0	47.2	41.0	HEU
700 755 Chesebrough	200.0	-0.0	3.1	155.700	CHS	125 115 Heublein	60.0	-0.0	47.2	41.0	HEU
161 86 Hiram Walker	96.0	-0.0	3.3	155.250	HWK	127 115 Heublein	60.0	-0.0	47.2	41.0	HEU
240 157 Heublein Corp	171.0	-0.0	3.3	151.118	HEU	135 125 Heublein	60.0	-0.0	47.2	41.0	HEU
<b>BANKS</b>											
138 178 Kirby Corp	1055.0	-7.2	3.2	156.212	KIR	145 150 Kirby Corp	105.0	-0.0	34.0	155.115	KIR
121 47 Lazard Fr	945.0	-0.0	3.3	152.350	LZD	150 155 Kirby Corp	105.0	-0.0	34.0	155.115	KIR
195 195 Lehtinen Corp	918.0	-0.0	3.3	155.220	LEH	151 155 Kirby Corp	105.0	-0.0	34.0	155.115	KIR
120 195 0 0 Lincoln Corp	111.0	-0.0	3.3	155.220	LIN	155 155 Kirby Corp	105.0	-0.0	34.0	155.115	KIR
120 655 0 0 Lincoln	111.0	-0.0	3.3	155.220	LIN	156 155 Kirby Corp	105.0	-0.0	34.0	155.115	KIR
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120 157 0 0 Lincoln	111.0	-0.0	3.3	155.220	LIN	186 155 Kirby Corp	105.0	-0.0	34.0	155.115	KIR
120 157 0 0 Lincoln	111.0	-0.0	3.3	155.220	LIN	187 155 Kirby Corp	105.0	-0.0	34.0	155.115	KIR
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Sexism charge at bank tribunal

THE INDEPENDENT  
Friday 14 August 1998

BUSINESS/21

# Takeover talk lightens the gloom

**TAKOVER BIDS**, real or rumoured, provided much of the action as the stock market again wallowed in seemingly unshakable gloom.

At one time Footsie was down 111.9 points. In a volatile session it ended 62.7 lower at 5,399.5, the first time it closed below 5,400 since late January.

There were complaints the controversial order book was exaggerating the decline and inhibiting dealing.

Fairey, the engineer, was catapulted into the takeover arena, soaring 53p from its year's low to 339p. There was talk an approach had been made although Fairey refused to comment. The shares took a tumble on Wednesday when HSBC took the shares off its buy list.

The market got hold of a story that Fairey had all but been identified in a US telephone conference call.

A cash-rich American group told its executives it intended to bid for a European group. It then went on to describe its target. Among the clues was the proposed victim's share performance - the price had fallen from around 700p to below

**MARKET REPORT**  
  
**DEREK PAIN**

300p. Like many engineers, Fairey has been devastated by sterling's strength and its shares have come down from 60p last year.

Southern Electric, the only one of the 12 privatised electricity distributors to retain its independence, was busily traded on renewed talk of corporate action, gaining 11p to 567p. There is, however, some debate whether Southern will emerge as a predator or victim.

It is thought to be keen to flex its muscles but looks vulnerable in the rapidly changing power world.

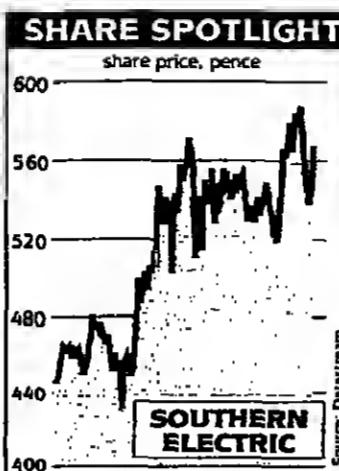
Booker, where talks are taking place, rose a further 21.5p to 279p. Vaux, the brewer and hotelier, was as flat as yesterday's plint, after denying it had received a bid approach, tumbling 41p to 318.5p. And Waverley Mining fell 3.5p to 9.75p as bid talk ended.

Racial Electronics was another lower - 2.5p to 325.5p. Henderson Crosthwaite suggested General Electric would bid before Racial merges its telecom side, due next year.

Footsie was again subjected to an order book distortion. This time the victim was Sun Life & Provincial, the insurer. A late order book trade for just 450 shares was punched in at 530p. It was the last order driven trade of the day and therefore became the formal closing price.

Before the rogue trade Sun Life had traded at around 500p; indeed there were two trades near 500p after the maverick input.

Until Sun Life's intervention BSkyB, the satellite television station, had led the blue chip winners, reflecting the market's appreciation of its digital packages. The shares rose 18p to 446p. Drug giants



Globo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham resisted the retreat, prompting vague thoughts that just perhaps, their merger was not dead. Glaxo rose 36p to 1,811p and SB 3.5p to 665.5p.

The session was dominated by worries over foreign markets, with the turmoil in Moscow creating considerable anxiety. A Russian devaluation seems inevitable. Such a

move would hit the German banks, which have a heavy Russian exposure, and probably lower the market creating more problems for Britain's hard-pressed exporters.

But investment house BT Alex Brown is not throwing up its hands in despair. It says: "Investors should now start to buy into the current market fragility and no longer expect it to underperform the rest of the Europe".

Supporting shares were not spared with the mid cap index of 51,514 and the small cap, down 25.5 to 2,333.1, uncomfortably close to its year's low.

Centrica, the gas group, firms up to 90.75p as Pannone Gordon increased its target price from 125p to 140p. EMI, the showbiz group, slipped 2.5p to 463.5p with Sutherland trimming its profit forecast and saying sell.

BT, the engineer, attracted late attention. A US predator was said to be stake building and in active trading the shares hardened 1.75p to 157.25p. One name in the frame was US breakup specialist Kohlberg Kravis Roberts.

Business Post, the express

parcels and mail delivery group, tumbled 52.5p to 575p on the boardroom changes which include the return of founder Peter Kane as chief executive.

Torostrak, the transmissions group hived off from BTG, continued to experience an unhappy market life. The shares arrived recently at around 300p; they fell 25p to 275.5p despite a little director buying Antonov, with a revolutionary gearbox, continued its sudden reversal, gaining a further 18.5p to 113.5p. Its ninth licensing deal and comments from Credit Lyonnais suggesting a 300p target are behind this week's 35p advance.

Huntingdon Life Sciences returned at 13.5p against a 19.5p suspension. Trading was halted while the company put together a £20.2m placing and open offer. The group suffered a 28.4m interim loss.

Oriflame International, the cosmetics group, fell 25p to 320p on worries about its exposure to Russia which accounts for around 15 per cent of its turnover.

SEAO VOLUME: 845.8  
SEAO TRADES: 60,140  
GILTS INDEX: n/a

**UNION**, once the Union Discount Co. of London, firmed 1.5p to 62.5p as aggressive investor Guinness Peat lifted its stake to 9.77 per cent, buying 1.5 million shares. GP has recently caused disquiet to directors of Staveley Industries and family-controlled Young & Co's Brewery. Union ended a 112-year reign as a proud discount house last year; it is now a fund manager and a futures and foreign exchange broker.

The company lost £2.5m last year and £11.5m the year before. Joseph Lewis, the Bahamas-based investor, has a 24 per cent stake; he is said to be a major client of the foreign exchange side. For Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand chairman of GP, it is a return to old pastures.

When he headed Brierley Investments he put together a 25 per cent Union stake, much of which is now with Mr Lewis.

**TAKOVER** development are likely soon at engineer James Dickie. The shares rose 6.5p to 135p on expectations of a deal.

## Independent's fortunes leave rivals red-faced

### INVESTMENT

EDITED BY PETER THAL LARSEN

#### INDEPENDENT INSURANCE: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £653.1m, share price 278.5p (-13p)

Full year to Dec 31 Half year to Jun 30

**Trading record 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999**

Gross Premiums (£m) 10.50 18.30 15.20 25.90 25.50

Pre-tax profits (£m) 35.60 52.00 65.10 38.50 25.90

Earnings per share (p) 53.60 80.20 99.50 77.50 115.00

Dividends per share (p) 2.25 2.65 3.30 1.25 1.50

Share price (pence) 8,735.1 5,426.0 5,378.1 5,957.1 5,352.1

Return on equity (%) 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999

Guardian 10.36 12.56 14.63 16.20 17.00

Commercial General Union 10.36 12.56 14.63 16.20 17.00

Royal Sun Alliance 10.36 12.56 14.63 16.20 17.00

Independent Insurance 10.36 12.56 14.63 16.20 17.00

Source: Datamonitor

other interactive projects, and Flextech's future looks compelling viewing. Don't let the chunky forward multiple of 16 times 2001 earnings put you off. The shares are good value.

#### Grim times for Danka

DANKA BUSINESS Systems has to be one of the more gruesome corporate horror stories of the recent years. In the past year, the photocopier distributor has watched its shares lose most of their value following a series of drastic profit warnings.

Yesterday, investors suffered even more blood and gore as first-quarter profits fell more than 60 per cent to £2.1m. Even though Danka had primed the market to expect the worst, its shares shed another 16.5p to close at 132.5p.

The situation looks grim. Margins are being eroded by cut-price competition from Japan and Danka's sales force are confused following the introduction of a new bonus scheme. Meanwhile, shrinking interest cover - its interest bill was covered less than two times by operating profits in the first half - has forced Danka to renegotiate covenants on its £450m of debt.

Clearly, Danka will have to work hard to restore its credibility. The appointment of two new executives should beef up its sales operation, allowing Danka to - albeit belatedly - keep the promises it made at the time of the acquisition of Kodak's copier distribution businesses.

Should Danka complete the turnaround, the upside will be bountiful. As the first-quarter figures show, profits are heavily geared to revenues. If sales start growing again, earnings will rebound sharply.

At the moment, the market is sceptical, valuing Danka's £2bn-plus of sales at little more than £300m. It's not for the faint-hearted, but if Danka pulls it off, the shares could be the recovery story of 1999.

#### IN BRIEF

##### Xenova revenues up despite loss

XENOVA, a biotechnology company which develops drugs from plants, yesterday reported a £6.47m loss in the six month to the end of June, compared with a £5.82m loss in the same period last year. The group said revenues had increased to £2.9m from £2.61m, mainly as a result of a collaboration with Eli Lilly, the drug company, on a cardiovascular treatment.

##### Ideal trades on

IDEAL HARDWARE, the computer hardware and software distributor, rushed out a statement saying it continued to trade strongly in the final quarter of the year just ended, and margins were within the company's target band. It follows a trading statement from rival Datrontech on Wednesday, warning that "during the last three months in common with a number of other distributors of PC-related products it [Datrontech] had experienced a sharp decline in business compared with the first four months of the year". Ideal's shares rose 17.5p to 265p.

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## Hippy-trippy era buys into plastic

### PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK



been augmented by Roger Phillips, who arrived from Investors Chronicle. Mr Spence also worked at the IC for 18 months, following his graduation in 1992 from Manchester Polytechnic with a degree in Accounting and Finance.

Roger Richards also recently joined Granville from Investors Chronicle as household goods and smaller companies analyst. I'm surprised there's anyone left at the IC at all.

Meanwhile Mr Spence starts three months' gardening leave. He's certainly picked some nice weeds for it. "I'm trying to buy a flat and then going on holiday," he says smugly.

**BARONESS SMITH** of Gilmorehill, widow of the late John Smith, has joined the Hackney Foundation, which helps British companies discover investment opportunities overseas.

So who or what is a Hackney? Christopher James, managing director of the foundation and a former Foreign Office head, was born a 16th-century geographer, born in London, who sat and listened to the tales told by returning explorers such as Drake and Frobisher. Then he wrote them up as "Hackney's Voyages". He was one of the principle inspirations for the East India Company.

The foundation was set up in 1995 by the late Sir Fitzroy Maclean, an intrepid explorer himself who was parachuted into Yugoslavia in the Second World War to act as the Allies' new shares offer

NURSING HOMES Properties' placing an open offer of 47.53 million new shares at 149p to raise 2.1m received

applications for 52.59 million shares, 58.4 per cent of those on offer. The balance of 15 million shares has been placed with institutional investors.

Mr Spence was born in 1958 and

was educated at Granville's

an annual 175-page round-up of the IT sector, and then Megabuyout, a monthly equivalent.

Speaking from Granville's

offices yesterday, Mr Spence insisted it was an "amicable split". "I've had a good four years at Granville, and I'm leaving a good IT team here."

That IT team has recently

been appointed to the

main link with Tito, the partisan leader and subsequent Communist boss. Lady Smith was a close friend of Sir Fitzroy for many years, sharing his close interest in Russia and Eastern Europe.

Following Sir Fitzroy's death last year Sir Peter Holmes, formerly senior managing director of Royal Dutch Shell Group, took over as president of the foundation, which is based in London's West End and only has half-a-dozen salaried staff, relying on 50 to 60 external experts to provide advice to companies.

The main idea, Mr James says, is to supply the kind of information available overseas cultures, and what conditions British companies may meet, which government or industry may not provide.

Mr James adds that they have had a problem deciding just how "Hackney", an old Hertford name, should be pronounced. "We settled on 'Hack-ley', although apparently you can also say 'Hack-ley-oo' or 'Hack-ley-ee'."

Meanwhile Mr Spence starts

three months' gardening leave.

He's certainly picked some nice

weeds for it. "I'm trying to buy

a flat and then going on holiday," he says smugly.

**THE ECOLOGY** Building Society, specialists in environmental and ecological money issues, has appointed a senior commercial lawyer as an executive director. Malcolm Lynch runs his own firm of the same name and is one of the leading charity lawyers in the North East.

The society was formed in 1981 and is based in Crosshills, West Yorkshire. It aims to provide finance to buy properties with an ecological payback, especially dilapidated houses that would otherwise be ignored.

Mr Lynch is also company secretary of the UK Social Investment Forum, the Foundation for Credit Counselling and the Co-operative Law Association.

**RANK GROUP** has appointed

Oliver Stocken, currently

group finance director of Bar-

clays, to the board as a non-ex-

ecutive director of MEPC.

**INDUSTRIAL METALS**

LME (£/tonne) Cash Chg 3 month Ong LME/3m Chg

Aluminium HG 1305 1307 5.50 1327 3 461200 -7.75



# SPORT

Premiership kick-off: A title race which may be the last as we know it has potential to be the most exciting for years

## Greed threatens game's golden age

BY GLENN MOORE

IT WAS once widely believed that increasing televised football from the weekly diet of *Match of the Day*, *The Big Match* and occasional midweek highlights would lead to a wholesale desecration of the terraces and the end of the game as we knew it.

This season Sky will show 180 matches, the Beeb and ITV will chip in with a few dozen of their own while Channel 5 is so desperate to join in they have been showing live pre-season friendlies. Meanwhile, an empty seat at a Premiership match has become as rare, expensive and coveted a commodity as a promising young Englishman emerging from the lower divisions.

All of which underlines the inherent risk in predicting future developments in an industry which remains an often uncomfortable mix of sport and business. But one prediction has to come to pass: the game as we knew it has been changing so fast that this is likely to be one of the last seasons in which the Premiership has a pre-eminent status in the English game. Such are the perceived financial rewards that a European super league, either authorised or outlawed, is inevitable. As this will have enormous ramifications for the domestic game, the issue is likely to provide a rumbling

backdrop to events on the pitch during the next 10 months.

All of which is a pity, as this season promises to be a memorable one. The World Cup attracted more people to the game than ever before and the sport has responded by bringing in yet more of the tournament's stars. More than a dozen players, from 11 countries – including six of the quarter-finalist nations – have been lured by the Premiership's growing reputation for big crowds and bigger salaries.

The title is likely to be contested by four teams which, if all survive to the final reckoning, would make it one of the most open for years. Manchester United are perhaps the most likely champions if they are not

sidetracked by Europe but Arsenal, Liverpool and Chelsea should run them close. The remaining pre-super league European places will be justified for by the usual suspects, such as Leeds, Aston Villa and a pugilist Newcastle, but also a cluster of teams, like Southampton, West Ham and Coventry, who are demonstrating that with good coaching and judicious spending the game's new wealth can favour the Jacks as well as the giants. One of these teams could well take the FA Cup.

At the other end it is important that the promoted trio do not again go straight back down, though it is hard to be optimistic about either Charlton or Nottingham Forest. The former will carry the good

wishes of many but will need to adjust much quicker than Barnsley did if they are to survive. The latter's problems with Pierre van Hooijdonk have, along with the farcical David Unsworth situation and the De Boer brothers' attempt to walk out on Ajax, provided a worrying prelude.

But, when they look at the example of their elders and supposed betters, why should players not put money before loyalty? It starts at the top with Keith Wiseman, the Football Association chairman, becoming a paper millionaire on the back of Southampton's business dealings. Then there is Arsenal's deputy chairman, David Dein, a respected and influential figure in the game, who was this week revealed to have earned close to £1m last year from pay and sales of his club shares. Most reprehensibly of all, even the England coach has been at it, revealing, in his small-minded, self-justifying, occasionally bizarre and highly lucrative book, tales which should have been told at the time or left unsaid for good.

If he retains his sanity and survives the present storm, Glenn Hoddle is likely to have a good year. England's opposition in the Euro 2000 qualifiers ought not to present much of a hurdle to a talented and determined squad, whoever manages them.

That none of those players are gaining experience abroad – unlike

ham. While Hoddle's scapegoating of him was callous and – one hopes – thoughtless, the ferocity of reaction is as much the unhappy consequence of Manchester United's overweening commercial presence as of envy. It also underlines, as Marcellus did, that the game is not clear of casual louts and organised malcontents yet.

A return to the days of the Stanley knife would hasten the backlash that is bound to come at some point; football is just too popular to remain the darling of the chattering classes and treads for ever. When it happens, will the game's bedrock be alienated; driven away by high ticket prices and pay-per-view? It's not just the top clubs who exploit their public: Gillingham, in the Second Division, have just unveiled their fourth home kit in as many seasons. This lack of respect for the supporter – as exemplified by the Gallowgate tapes affair – needs to be driven out, but there is a shortage of able administrators, with too few even of the calibre of Gordon Taylor and the much-maligned but essentially decent Graham Kelly.

Yet while we should be vigilant in protecting the future we must not forget to enjoy the present. This is a golden age, get some memories in the bank while you still can.

## Premiership sets challenge for Desailly

WHEN CHELSEA signed Marcel Desailly from Milan two days before the World Cup final, eyebrows were raised and knowing looks exchanged – £1.6m for a player approaching 30, his best years probably behind him? Did Gianluca Vialli know what he was doing with Chelsea's money? After five years in Italy's Serie A, the only thing many players are good for is early retirement but as the World Cup unfolded Vialli's smile must have broadened by the day.

Desailly's dominant performances in the heart of defence were as influential as any player's contribution to France's triumph, and despite being sent off following a reckless challenge towards the end of the final, he was probably the first name on most people's fantasy team of the tournament. Questions will inevitably be asked about his commitment to Chelsea, but at least there was proof that Desailly still has peers and if he plays half as well for his new club as he did for his country there will be no complaints.

"I had three years of my contract to run with Milan so I'm not coming here to sleep," he said yesterday after being introduced to the English press. "Chelsea asked me to come and help them win many things, and I said OK. I am a player and I need a challenge, and the challenge Chelsea have given me is a good one."

From Accra to London, via Nantes, Marseilles and Milan is the route Desailly has taken since being adopted at birth by the French consul in Ghana. The family moved to Nantes when Desailly was four and it was there that he made his name, but not before personal tragedy intervened. His half-brother, Seth Adonkor, six years older and a member of the Nantes team that won the French championship in 1983, was killed in a car accident on

A French World Cup winner has left behind the old Serie A routine at Milan to write a new chapter in his illustrious career. By Adam Szczerba

the road to La Baule and it is said to have had a profound effect on his 15-year-old brother.

At Nantes, Desailly found a kindred spirit in Didier Deschamps, who had suffered an identical bereavement some years earlier. Desailly followed Deschamps to Marseille, before both men moved on to Italy. While at Marseille Desailly played in the side, captained by Deschamps, that beat Milan in the 1993 European Cup final (a victory subsequently tainted by match-fixing allegations) and Milan were so impressed they bought him.

There he was converted into a defensive midfield player by Fabio Capello and within a year he was a European Cup winner again, scoring the final goal as the Italians routed Barcelona 4-0 in Athens. Over the next three years, while Milan slowly slipped from their pedestal, Desailly was one of their most consistent performers but since reaching the semi-finals of Euro 96 with France his own form finally seemed to suffer as Milan began to struggle.

"We had two bad seasons and for me everything was becoming routine," he said. "People were saying my performances for Milan were down, but I can assure everybody I'm still there and I'll show it again the Premiership. The idea is for me to play in defence. I've played for a long time in midfield for Milan, but I play in defence for the national team and I am a defender. Sometimes I'll play in midfield if the coach says so, but otherwise I'll play in defence."

"There's no problem," he said. "With the national team it's finished. I am happy that we won the World Cup and it will follow me all my career, but now it is in the past and I have to look ahead. A faculty of man is to forget, and if I play badly then people will forget all that pretty quickly. I hope to take all the experience I gained during the World Cup, I'm here at a new club, I'm very happy and I would like to write another chapter in my life here at Chelsea."

And he will play in that defence alongside Franck Leboeuf again, just as he did in the World Cup final. "It's good to have Frank here, and I'm sure we'll do nice things in the championship," he said. "I don't know too much about the Premiership – obviously it's physical, a bit less tactical but that's why I'm happy to be here, to show I can play in these conditions. There are many good players in England – my own favourite is McManaman, but there are many others."

"At Chelsea I already knew of many of the players and there are some big names, but everybody wants to win, you can see that in training, and everybody is being very helpful. It will take time for us all to get to know each other, but everybody has to play their best, not try to do too much with the ball and we will grow in time."

Once the novelty of it all has worn off though, and the winter sets in, will the Premiership become something of an anti-climax for a man who has already achieved all there is to achieve in the game?

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Marcel Desailly, in training yesterday: 'I had three years of my contract to run with Milan so I'm not coming here to sleep' Robert Hallam

## Consolidation the key for Forest Green's Conference debut

### NON-LEAGUE NOTEBOOK

BY RUPERT METCALF

THIS TIME last year Forest Green Rovers were preparing for their first season in the Dr Martens League Premier Division, after winning the Southern Division title the previous campaign. Few at the little

Gloucestershire club dared to dream that they might win promotion once again. But they did just that, and tomorrow they make their debut in the Football Conference with a home fixture against Rushden & Diamonds.

"Last year our only aim was consolidation. We just wanted to find our feet in the [Dr Martens] Premier,"

Rovers' manager, Frank Grogan, said yesterday. "But we had an amazing start, and we realised that perhaps we were better than we thought we were."

In fact, Rovers were good enough to go on to win the title with a five-point advantage over their only serious rivals, Merthyr Tydfil, and thus maintain a rise that has taken them

from the Stroud and District League to the top level of the semi-professional game. Now the country's best non-League clubs, like wealthy Rushden, must find their way to The Lawn, Rovers' compact ground perched on a hillside outside the small town of Nailsworth.

Rovers' only previous taste of national fame came in 1982, when they beat Rainworth Miners' Welfare at Wembley to win the FA Vase. The Conference, as their manager admits, is a big jump. "Our sole aim is staying up," Grogan said.

At odds of 50-1 (Rushden are the 5-2 favourites) for the title, Rovers are the joint favourites for relegation. "The bookmakers don't often get it wrong," Grogan added. "Unlike the other two promoted teams [Barrow and Kingstonian], we haven't spent much money on our squad."

Hedges, has damaged ankle ligaments and will be out for two months. Most of last season's squad remain, including Chris Hone, once of Bristol City and Airdrie.

Grogan, a former Army man who arrived at Rovers for his first managerial job in 1994, has brought in two former Cardiff City players, Nathan Wigg and Jimmy Rollo. Another summer signing, the former Bournemouth defender Ian

and Stevenage and they also face early trips to Woking and Doncaster. "We're wondering where we're going to pick up any points. But you have to get on with it."

After the collapse of talks with a potential replacement for its previous sponsors, Vauxhall, the fifth division will now be known as the Football Conference.

# Team-by-team guide to the Premiership



**THE MOMENTUM**  
Arsenal built up between Christmas and spring was so irresistible, and ultimately so magical, that the only fear lay in how they would recreate it once they stopped. The part Emmanuel Petit and Patrick Vieira played in France's crowning glory suggested it was ongoing, an impression compounded in the Charity Shield. Arsène Wenger will now be stressing there was no miracle: that great players excel only by hard work and good habits. It is certainly going to be tougher this time. Only Liverpool and Manchester United have retained the title in the 40 years since Wolves did it (the Gunners' double side of '71 came fifth 12 months on). United's experience also shows that the Champions' League can have a draining effect without adequate cover, which Arsenal do not yet possess. Still, Nicolas Anelka looks ominously sharp after being ignored by Aimé Jacquet, and if Dennis Bergkamp can avoid injury and suspension they will be close again.

**PREDICTION:** 3rd

**Manager:** Arsène Wenger (appointed Sept 1996). **Ground capacity:** 38,500. **Last season:** Premiership: 1st; FA Cup: winners; Coca-Cola Cup: 1st round; UEFA Cup: 1st round. **Major signings:** David Grondin (St Etienne) £500,000; Nelson Vivas (Lugano) undisclosed. **Major departures:** Ian Wright (West Ham) £250,000; David Platt (retired); Matthew Wicks (Crewe) free; initially, rising to £100,000; Scott Parker (Southampton) free; Chris Kiwomya (released). **Season tickets:** £805 (up 15 per cent).



**BASED ON** their performances in the final third of last season, which catapulted them from the relegation scrap into the Uefa Cup after John Gregory replaced Brian Little as manager. Villa ought to be rated as championship dark horses. After all, they produced top-five finishes in each of the previous two years. Instead, their build-up has been blighted by the defection of the hugely influential Steve Staunton, the struggle to prevent Dwight Yorke and Mark Bosnich from following him and the David Unsworth fiasco. Yorke will probably join Manchester United eventually but as long as he stays with Julian Joachim rather than Stan Collymore his preferred partner - Villa have the potential to beat the best. The failed £14m bid for Juninho shows that Gregory is not inhibited by his role and has the clout to improve quality levels whatever the outcome of the Yorke saga. First priority, though, must be stability and avoiding a repetition of Little's four opening defeats.

**PREDICTION:** 9th

**Manager:** John Gregory (appointed February 1998). **Ground capacity:** 39,339. **Last season:** Premiership: 6th; FA Cup: 5th round; Coca-Cola Cup: 3rd round. **Major signings:** Kevin Davies (Southampton) £7.25m; Sébastien Perez (Bastia) £3m; James Corbett (Gillingham) £1m; Darren Pearce (Newcastle) free. **Major departures:** Stuart Easton (Southampton) £5.5m; Andy Hunt (West Brom) free; Simon Kev (Southend) free; Emeka Iteagwu (released by Nigerian FA) undisclosed. **Major departures:** Steve Staunton (Liverpool) free; Fernando Nelson (Porto) £1.7m. **Season tickets:** £374 (up 22 per cent).



**JACK WALKER'S** policy with regard to bank-rolling Blackburn's bid to regain the championship they won three years ago has become clearer. He is willing to pay seven-figure sums only for young prospects with some sell-on value, which means Kevin Davies, at a mind-boggling £7.25m, rather than a Pferdug Casiraghi for £5.6m. That may have come as a surprise to Roy Hodgson, who surely anticipated dipping into the benefactor's fortune as readily as Kenny Dalglish did. Given Hodgson's knowledge of Europe and skills as a communicator and coach, one suspects they would be better equipped to press home the sort of challenge they failed to sustain last season with the odd seasoned campaigner from the Continent. They have lost their defensive rock, Colin Hendry, though Davies can only enhance the attacking options offered by Chris Sutton and Kevin Gallacher. Thereabouts, if not quite there, in the Premiership, there is still hope to prosper in the Uefa Cup.

**PREDICTION:** 18th

**Manager:** Roy Hodgson (appointed June 1997). **Ground capacity:** 31,367. **Last season:** Premiership: 6th; FA Cup: 5th round; Coca-Cola Cup: 3rd round. **Major signings:** Alan Hansen (Everton) £4.5m; David Unsworth (West Ham) £3m; Fabio Ferreira (Cesena) free. **Major departures:** Steve Staunton (Liverpool) free; Fernando Nelson (Porto) £1.7m. **Season tickets:** £399 (up 15 per cent).



**THEINEVITABLE** parallels with Barnsley were underlined by the acquisition of the Yorkshire club's outstanding captain, Neil Redfearn. Yet there is evidence, albeit slender, to suggest that Charlton might just avoid the same fate. Resilience runs through the club, the legacy both of the departure from The Valley a decade ago and the stupendous efforts Lennie Lawrence put into maintaining top-flight football on a shoestring during their exile. More pertinently, while they share Barnsley's constructive inclinations, they demonstrate few of their self-destructive traits. Forged the 4-3 defeat of Sunderland in the play-off final (breath-taking though it was), the key to promotion was a staggering late sequence of clean sheets. Organisation and spirit take you only so far without strength and a modicum of class, but Charlton are not alone in that and the resourceful Alan Curbishley will not let them fall without an almighty fight.

**PREDICTION:** 18th

**Manager:** Alan Curbishley (appointed: June 1995). **Ground capacity:** 34,500. **Last season:** Premiership: 11th; FA Cup: 5th round; Coca-Cola Cup: 3rd round. **Major signings:** Alan Hansen (Everton) £4.5m; Darren Pearce (Newcastle) free. **Major departures:** Stuart Easton (Southampton) £5.5m; Patrick Valery (Bastia) £80,000; Pederson (Strasbourg) £900,000. **Season tickets:** £390 (up 15 per cent).



**SINCE COLLECTING** two cups last season after Ruud Gullit's exit - and finishing fourth in the Premiership to boot - Chelsea have not rested. The advent of four top-class talents should, in theory, take them very close to the title. Gianluca Vialli has invested £12m-plus in ready-made stars rather than gambling on potential, reflecting Ken Bates' impatience to land the genuinely major trophy that would justify the money lavished on the squad and the stadium. Marcel Desailly might have been born to play English football and will improve a defence not noted for its tackling. Michael Laudrup, too, is a beautifully fluid performer while Pferdug Casiraghi looks an effective replacement for Mark Hughes. Reservations centre on Vialli's unproven qualities as manager (by common consent). Graham Rix still exerts the greatest influence on strategy and on how quickly a side of such disparate talents and tongues can gel. **PREDICTION:** 4th

**PREDICTION:** 12th

**Manager:** Gianluca Vialli (appointed: February 1998). **Ground capacity:** 34,500. **Last season:** Premiership: 11th; FA Cup: 5th round; Coca-Cola Cup: 3rd round. **Major signings:** Pferdug Casiraghi (Lazio) £5.4m; Marcel Desailly (Milan) £4.6m; Albert Ferrer (Barcelona) £2.2m; Brian Laudrup (Rangers) free. **Major departures:** Danny Gramp (Leeds) £1.6m; Mark Hughes (Bolton) £650,000; Mark Stein (Bournemouth) free. **Season tickets:** £1,025 (up 15 per cent).



**BY THE STANDARDS** of Coventry's long tenure among the élite (they are now approaching the 32nd season since a bright spark named Jimmy Hill brought them up), last season was a raging success. Not only did they embarrass many of their supposed superiors but they also enjoyed a strong FA Cup run and saw Dian Dublin represent England. Gordon Strachan also proved himself a canny as well as passionate manager, unearthing George Boating to compensate for what some feared would be the devastating loss through injury of Gary McAllister. At £250,000 the Dutch dynamo is a bargain to compare with the £1m Darren Huckerby, who can be as unplayable as Michael Owen. The move for Robert Jami, though ultimately unsuccessful, was further proof of Strachan's eye for quality at affordable prices. Provided backing from the board keeps coming, a European place is more likely than a reprieve with relegation.

**PREDICTION:** 14th

**Manager:** Gordon Strachan (appointed: November 1995). **Ground capacity:** 23,662. **Last season:** Premiership: 11th; FA Cup: quarter-finalists; Coca-Cola Cup: 4th round. **Major signings:** Jean-Guy Valembois (Lens) £700,000; Paul Hall (Portsmouth) £300,000. **Major departures:** Horacio Carbonari (Club Atlético Rosario Central) £2.7m; Stefan Schönroth (Hamburg) free. **Major departures:** Chris Clement (KRC Genk) undisclosed. **Major departures:** Danny Gramp (Leeds) £1.6m; Mark Hughes (Bolton) £650,000; Mark Stein (Bournemouth) free. **Season tickets:** £393 (up 10.75 per cent).



**AN ENTERPRISING** and enterprising campaign at Pride Park was marred by aberrations against Leeds (0-5) and Leicester (0-4) which scuppered Derby's hopes of returning to Europe only two years after breaking into the Premiership. Whether Jim Smith's polyglot band can improve on a still commendable top-half finish may hinge, therefore, on the calibre of the two defenders the Bald Eagle has brought in (from Germany and Argentina). It is to be hoped they do not suffer the type of start that might put Smith under pressure to go against the attacking instincts that makes his teams so watchable. If the heart of the side lacks craft and poise, the buzz that goes around whenever Francesco Belotti links up and picks out Paulo Wanchope's loping stride is testament to the finesse of an Italian who was more effective than Gianfranco Zola at times last season. The challenge now is to become as mean at the back as they are menacing going forward.

**PREDICTION:** 14th

**Manager:** Jim Smith (appointed: June 1995). **Ground capacity:** 30,500. **Last season:** Premiership: 9th; FA Cup: 4th round; Coca-Cola Cup: 3rd round. **Major signings:** Jimi Agudu (Lazio) £1.2m; Marcel Desailly (Milan) £4.6m; Albert Ferrer (Barcelona) £2.2m; Brian Laudrup (Rangers) free. **Major departures:** Danny Gramp (Leeds) £1.6m; Mark Hughes (Bolton) £650,000; Mark Stein (Bournemouth) free. **Season tickets:** £1,025 (up 15 per cent).



**YET ANOTHER** last-ditch scramble for safety has been followed by a firm break with the past. Howard Kendall's replacement by Walter Smith appears a positive step after his price-laden years with Rangers (even if many Evertonians would rather have seen chairman Peter Johnson go). The key question will be how quickly he adapts to the English scene after an entire career north of the border. Scottish sceptics raised eyebrows when his first Goodison buy was Marco Materazzi, Smith's final seasons at Ibrox having been marked by some ill-conceived purchases from Italy. A more positive sign came when he persuaded John Collins to give up Monte Carlo for the Mersey side, thereby restoring long-overdue creativity. With several more deals in the offing it is clear the new regime will keep few of those they inherited. Duncan Ferguson may find cult status counts for less than a modest scoring record and propensity for trouble. Sure to stay, though, is Michael Ball, a left-back who should play for England by the millennium.

**PREDICTION:** 10th

**Manager:** Walter Smith (appointed: July 1995). **Ground capacity:** 40,200. **Last season:** Premiership: 10th; FA Cup: 4th round; Coca-Cola Cup: 3rd round. **Major signings:** Horacio Carbonari (Club Atlético Rosario Central) £2.7m; Stefan Schönroth (Hamburg) free. **Major departures:** Chris Clement (Portsmouth) £250,000; Robin van der Sar (Bam) undisclosed; Dean Yates (Watford) free. **Season tickets:** £285 (up 3.65 per cent).



**THAT PECULIAR** restlessness crowd at Elland Road, pleasantly surprised by last season's upturn in fortunes, may be wondering what became of the "special players" George Graham said he needed to make the next step up from pretenders to contenders. Danny Granville is a promising recruit and if Clyde Wijnhard settles as well as Jimmy Hasselbaink did, Leeds should once more be among the best of the rest. Since succeeding Howard Wilkinson two years ago, Graham has dispensed with the dead wood and nurtured some exceptional youngsters, with Steve McPhail poised to follow Harry Kewell into the front line. He has also bought economically at home and abroad. But expectations are high, perhaps artificially so, and the City-based owners now have to show that the club are more than just another part of their leisure portfolio. Bringing in high earners is a risky business, with David Hopkin and Lee Sharpe only marginally better ads for buying big than Tomas Brolin, but Graham must venture more to keep the other United in sight.

**PREDICTION:** 17th

**Manager:** Martin O'Neill (appointed: December 1995). **Ground capacity:** 22,517. **Last season:** Premiership: 10th; FA Cup: 4th round; Coca-Cola Cup: 3rd round. **Major signings:** Gerry Taggart (Bolton) free; Frank Sinclair £2m (Chelsea). **Major departures:** None. **Season tickets:** £535 (up 11.5 per cent).



**MARTIN O'NEILL'S** achievement in leading Leicester to successive top 10 placings should not be underestimated. As surprising as that success, after all the assurances he demanded and received about the club's commitment to strengthening his squad, is that he has been so inactive in the summer transfer market. The squad is full of good solid pros, with a leavening of quality provided by Matt Elliott, Muzzy Izzet and Steve Guppy, and it was critical that Kasey Keller did not follow up his interest in trying Europe. But without the personnel to vary an increasingly predictable style, it is hard to see them as anything more than nuisance value. O'Neill certainly needs better service to exploit the full potential of Emile Heskey, the awesomely built local boy once talked of almost in the terms now reserved for a certain Liverpool prodigy. The time is fast approaching the point where he must translate potential into performance. Filbert Street's season could turn on the extent to which he flourishes.

**PREDICTION:** 17th

**Manager:** Martin O'Neill (appointed: December 1995). **Ground capacity:** 22,517. **Last season:** Premiership: 10th; FA Cup: 4th round; Coca-Cola Cup: 3rd round. **Major signings:** George Graham (appointed: September 1996). **Ground capacity:** 40,000. **Last season:** Premiership: 10th; FA Cup: quarter-finalists; Coca-Cola Cup: 4th round. **Major signings:** Danny Granville (Chelsea) £1.6m; Clyde Wijnhard (Willem II) £1.1m. **Major departures:** Rod Wallace (Rangers) free. **Season tickets:** £420 (up 9 per cent).



**THIRD PLACE** would have delighted most clubs. At Anfield, where vast amounts have gone on trying to recapture the glory that once came as if by divine right, it was the signal to bring in a new manager. They opted for the kind of fudge - an "equal" partnership between Gérard Houllier and Roy Evans - that has a poor track record. One wonders how the Frenchman's new broom will sit with the so-called Spice Boys, or those senior players who appeared to exert undue influence over Evans (Paul Ince deserved the idea of a foreign manager last season). Houllier will be keen to improve discipline; if he finds a goalkeeper and a centre-back as well, Liverpool could regain their former pre-eminence sooner rather than later. The possibility that David James and Phil Babb could be part of a "spine" spearheaded by Michael Owen points to another near-miss, though with the 18-year-old flying, anything is possible.

**PREDICTION:** 2nd

**Manager:** Roy Evans (appointed: January 1994) and Gérard Houllier (appointed: July 1998). **Ground capacity:** 45,362. **Last season:** Premiership: 3rd; FA Cup: 3rd round; Coca-Cola Cup: semi-finalists; UEFA Cup: 2nd round. **Major signings:** Vagard Heggen (Rosenborg) £3.5m; Sean Dundee (Carlisle) £2m; Steve Staunton (Aston Villa) free. **Major departures:** Neil Ruddock (West Ham) £100,000; Michael Thomas (Benfica) free. **Season tickets:** £330 (up 10 per cent).



**THE ANGUISH** of a trophy-less season spilled over into a summer of frustrations, culminating in another forlorn bid for Dwight Yorke. All reminiscent of the 1995 close season, when United, sans Cantona, lost their opener and Alan Hansen famously declared: "You win nothing with kids". They went on to the title and despite Alex Ferguson's evident dissatisfaction with his forwards they are capable of doing it again. It is easily forgotten that Andy Cole topped the Premiership scoring chart, and that Roy Keane kicked neither ball nor man for nine months but is now back. Jesper Blomqvist's arrival means United will be able to spread their wings whether or not David Beckham or Ryan Giggs operate centrally. Much will depend on how Beckham handles the abuse and whether Jaap Stam becomes the mainstay his attributes and price suggest he should be, but superior depth and experience of the dual pressures of Premiership and Europe should see normal service resumed. **PREDICTION:** 1st

**Manager:** Alex Ferguson (appointed: January 1994) and Gérard Houllier (appointed: July 1998). **Ground capacity:** 56,024. **Last season:** Premiership: 2nd; FA Cup: 5th round; Coca-Cola Cup: 3rd round; Champions League: quarter-finalists. **Major signings:** Jaap Stam (PSV Eindhoven) £10.75m; Jesper Blomqvist (Parma) £4.4m. **Major departures:** Gary Pallister (Middlesbrough) £2.5m; Ben Thornley (Middlesbrough) £1.5m; Craig Tudor (Giant) £100,000; Brian McClair (Motherwell) free; Kevin Pilkington (Port Vale) free; Graeme Johnson (Middlesbrough) free. **Season tickets:** £380 (up 5.25 per cent).



**WILL THE** new Boro, featuring Paul Gascoigne and Gary Pallister, be any more durable than the expensive hotchpotch relegated 18 months ago? Gazza's fitness and form are going to both show a pronounced improvement on last season's run-in, his team and manager may be pushed to survive. The return of Pallister also has the air of a gamble given his back problems, though his experience could be invaluable in rectifying the back problems which flared spasmodically in the First Division. They should be more unified than last time, when the sideshows of Fabrizio Ravanelli and Emerson overshadowed the main attraction, but even the attacking prowess of Paul Merson and Marco Branca is not going to frighten opponents as Juninho did. Still, the money that could stop their yo-yo existence shows that he should be, but upward mobility may be the best they can hope for. **PREDICTION:** 8th

**Manager:** Kenny Dalglish (appointed: January 1997). **Ground capacity:** 34,610. **Last season:** Premiership: 13th; FA Cup: finalists; Coca-Cola Cup: quarter-finalists; Champions League: group stage. **Major signings:** Stéphane Guivarc'h (Auxerre) £3.5m; Carl Serrano (Olympique Lyonnais) £1.5m; Paul Konchesy (Rangers) £1.5m. **Major signings:** Jean Claude Domèvre (Tours) £700,000; Laurent Charvet (Cannes) £520,000; Gary Brady (Tottenham) tribunals; Stephen Glass (Aberdeen) £4.4m. **Major departures:** Jon Dakin (Pembroke) £2.5m; Darren Peacock (Blackburn) free; Shaka Hislop (West Ham) free. **Season tickets:** £463 (up 5 per cent).



**THEIR SELF-IMAGE** as major movers in the corporate world and the credibility of Kenny Dalglish are on the line. A run to the FA Cup final, albeit ending in defeat, was a welcome distraction from Premiership failures and boardroom scandal. However, after spending £38m in 18 months, Dalglish is now expected to deliver the major trophy which eluded Kevin Keegan. There can be no excuses that it is not his team, yet ironically the condition and contentedness of Wor Kev's biggest buy, Alan Shearer, seems certain to have a massive bearing on how his successor fares. The suspicion that Stéphane Guivarc'h may be as ill-suited a partner as Andreas Andersson needs to be dispensed quickly. A renewed challenge would pacify the seething Magpies and wear them off their yearning for up-to-plan football values. But upward mobility may be the best they can hope for.

**PREDICTION:** 20th

**Manager:** Kenny Dalglish (appointed: January 1997). **Ground capacity:** 34,500. **Last season:** Premiership: 1st; FA Cup: 3rd round; Coca-Cola Cup: 4th round. **Major signings:** Stéphane Guivarc'h (Auxerre) £3.5m; Carl Serrano (Olympique Lyonnais) £1.5m; Paul Konchesy (Rangers) £1.5m. **Major signings:** Jean Claude Domèvre (Tours) £700,000; Laurent Charvet (Cannes) £520,000; Gary Brady (Tottenham) £4.4m. **Major departures:** Kevin Campbell (Trabzonspor) £4m; Ian Moore (Stockport) £800,000. <b

# Roving role is fine by Giggs

## FOOTBALL

By MARK PIERSON

MANCHESTER UNITED may have missed out on Patrick Kluivert and Dwight Yorke, but they have still unleashed a new attacking force this season.

Ryan Giggs was splendid in his new free role as United as he ripped through the LKS Lodz defence in the first leg of the Champions' League second qualifying round at Old Trafford on Wednesday night.

Alex Ferguson, the United manager, has encouraged Giggs to cut in from more of his left wing, and he did that to devastating effect, scoring the first goal in a 2-0 win. His team-mate Nicky Butt was not surprised by Giggs' scintillating show. "I thought he was exceptional, but then everyone knows how good a footballer he is," he said.

Giggs played down his new roving role, which seems to take off when Jesper Blomqvist recovers from a foot injury and replaces him on the left.

The man himself, though, is taking nothing for granted. "I'm not too sure, need to ask the manager about that. Wherever I play I enjoy it and I just do my best," Giggs said.

One thing Giggs is sure about is that United are in an excellent position to reach the Champions' League proper, especially after Andy Cole's goal nine minutes from time.

"We've got to be sensible when we go out there, but if we get an away goal then they will

need to score four," he said. "I must say we are confident about our chances after keeping the clean sheet. That was the main thing."

Josep Venglos, the Celtic head coach, spoke yesterday of the moment he selected his instinct against Croatia Zagreb on Wednesday night and realised that Darren Jackson was the man for the occasion.

The Scotland forward was left on the bench for the first 45 minutes of their European Champions' League qualifying round first leg tie at Parkhead.

Six minutes after the restart, however, Jackson seized on to a loose ball to show his own instincts for goalscoring.

"I could see that Harald Brattbakk was trying hard, but I had the feeling I had to do something," Venglos said. "We needed to get the game going in our favour so I chose Darren and it was OK for us."

Venglos was keen to share the plaudits around his players for the 1-0 win that gives Celtic a more than reasonable chance of joining Europe's elite.

It was still the spirit and determination of our teamwork that won it for us - you cannot say that anybody played badly," he said. "We showed our qualities and all the players proved their desire to play for the club."

The visitors believed, and had ample justification for doing so, that they merited at least a draw for their assured display and they could easily overturn their deficit in two weeks' time.



Ryan Giggs celebrates scoring Manchester United's first goal against LKS Lodz on Wednesday

## Makel gives Hearts the edge

By KEN GAUNT  
in Tallinn

Lantana Tallinn 0  
Hearts 1

LEE MAKEL scored a vital away goal yesterday as Hearts negotiated a potentially tricky tie in Estonia to leave themselves with an excellent chance of progressing into the first round proper of the Cup Winners' Cup.

Makel grabbed the winner in this preliminary round first leg game after 21 minutes. The former Huddersfield and Blackburn midfielder robbed Oleg

Koltsi inside the penalty box before curling a spectacular shot into the corner of the net.

Hearts had plenty of possession but failed to add to Makel's goal in front of a sparse crowd. However, they should have done enough to progress beyond the second leg at Tynecastle in 12 days' time.

Prior to this game Lantana had never won a match in Europe. They switched the tie to the national stadium in the hope of attracting more neutral fans. But the home-from-home crowd saw the Edinburgh side dominate the game from the start.

In a lively opening, Stephane Adam touched the ball wide after Jim Hamilton had headed on a cross from Neil McCann, who then saw a header go just wide of the post before Makel made the breakthrough.

Soon afterwards Hamilton knocked a good 20-yard shot wide, but Hearts almost paid the penalty for relaxing their grip on the match in the 29th minute, when Vitali Leitan struck the post. A further scare followed four minutes after the break when Leitan got away from David Weir, only to drag his shot disappointingly wide.

Hearts maintained their dominance after the break and Thomas Fliegel should have added a second goal at the death when the keeper flapped at McCann's cross, but the Austrian striker sent his shot over the top.

However, with the away goal under their belts, Hearts can surely now safely steer themselves through the second leg.

Lantana Tallinn: Uusolevi, Kraasjorg, Kalmus, Kolkoset, Kalmus, Miquel, Borissow, Lelcan, Valuski, Goran, Kostic, Koval, Jersko, Teknikov, Heeres, Rousser, Naysmith, Wels, Salazar, Ristic, McCann, Adam (substitution, 86), Makel, Subasic (substitution used: McCann, McInnon, Prester, Mure, Holmes, Reference: M Barnes (Czech Republic)

## Nicholson drug ban is lifted

Shane Nicholson was yesterday called upon to follow Paul Merson's example and educate fellow players on the dangers of drugs.

Nicholson, the former West Bromwich Albion defender, had his suspension from the game lifted by a Football Association disciplinary commission following a ban imposed in February for failing to supply a random drugs test.

The three-man commission reached their decision after

hearing progress reports on Nicholson's rehabilitation.

Brendon Batson, the Professional Footballers' Association deputy chief executive, believes Nicholson could play a vital role in the union's anti-drug programme.

"Anybody with a similar problem who wants to discuss it with someone can talk to Shane, who has been through it and can speak with some authority," he said.

Nicholson is currently training with Second Division Chesterfield and there has already been "interest" from other clubs.

Keith Gillespie, the New Castle winger, has scuttled reports that he is set to retire and insists he will be back in action soon.

"They are totally untrue," he said. "I've had the OK from both physios. I've seen a couple of specialists and hopefully I'll be resuming training on Monday."

The Chelsea player-manag-

er, Gianluca Vialli, has confirmed he will sue Zdenek Zeman after the Roma coach made a thinly-disguised claim that he took illegal performance-enhancing drugs.

Zeman made the comments in an Italian magazine last week.

"If someone has made a mistake then they must pay for it, but it will not be me," Vialli said.

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Hungarian Grand Prix: Hakkinen and Schumacher prepare for sweltering showdown

# Ferrari fired up for heat of battle

BY DERICK ALLSOP  
in Budapest

THE CIRCUIT should be more to his car's liking, the conditions should favour his fabled fitness, so anything short of victory is unthinkable. For Michael Schumacher, this is the last chance saloon.

He is characteristically defiant in the face of a 16-point deficit, but concedes he cannot afford to lose more ground to Mika Hakkinen in Sunday's Hungarian Grand Prix here.

Schumacher's Ferrari was hopelessly outclassed at Hockenheim, last time out, and McLaren-Mercedes can safely anticipate being at the head of the field again this weekend. Even Schumacher's own fans appear to have given up on him. Seventy per cent of Germans polled recently considered his championship a lost cause.

Schumacher, however, maintained yesterday: "At the beginning of the season people said we could not win races but I have won four so we'll see. It becomes more difficult when you drop points, and I really have to make up some ground here. This is a good circuit to do that. I'll never give up on the championship until it is mathematically impossible to win."

Schumacher again protested his innocence yesterday amid rumours that Ferrari were using an illegal traction control system to boost the car's performance so that it could compete with the superior McLaren-Mercedes. The rumours had been fu-

elled when it took longer than usual to download the computer software from the Ferrari so that it could be checked after the last race in Germany a fortnight ago.

"I find this all rather silly," said Schumacher, who faced similar speculation during his first world title season with Benetton in 1994. "I do not believe for one moment that any car is using an illegal strategy. People did not believe us in 1994 even though we did nothing illegal and that did upset me."

Typically, McLaren have left nothing to chance in their preparations for the head of the Hungaroring, testing at a similarly stifling Jerez, in southern Spain.

"It is like a sauna here," Hakkinen said. "The sweat runs into your eyes and makes the driving very difficult. You have to make sure you take on a lot of fluid before the race."

Equally typically, Schumacher seized the opportunity to pick off a couple of psychological points. "Compared with saloon cars, Formula One cars are air-conditioned," he said.

Schumacher, of course, has raised the physical stakes in grand prix racing, and the rest have had to play catch-up. But Hakkinen's team-mate, David Coulthard, is convinced the Finn will not be found wanting if the temperature reaches its expected near 100 degrees here on Sunday and Schumacher is breathing down his neck.

Coulthard said: "I'm sure Mika is fit enough. There are no worries about that. Over the past couple of years the team have



Michael Schumacher yesterday rejected claims of an illegal traction system at the Prancing Horse team

had the facility to test our fitness and we've worked on improving it. Mika won't have a problem if it comes down to a close fight between the two of them."

"It is incredibly hot and this will be one of the hardest races of the season. I've been train-

ing more in the heat than usual, especially for this race. We've also been testing in Jerez in similarly hot conditions. Every single part of the car is stressed more and we have wider front tyres here."

"It's also harder on the me-

chanics. They work long hours and a couple of them had problems here last year."

"Michael was on pole here last year but I'll be surprised if we're not at the front. I believe we have the best overall package anywhere. It would take a

AFP

brave man to bet against Mika now. It is a critical race for Michael."

Damon Hill's negotiations for a new contract at Jordan are apparently unlikely to be concluded this weekend. The sticking point remains money.



# Woods fires early birdies

## GOLF

By ANDY FARRELL  
in Seattle

AFTER THE Great Wall of China, the Boeing factory here is the next most easily spotted man-made object visible on the Earth from space. Bill Gates' mansion may not come far behind. The Microsoft empire is situated all around Seattle's course in Redmond and nothing illustrates the advances of time better than Seattle's switch in exports from hardware that does not crash to software that, it is hoped, also doesn't crash.

So far in 1998, however, golf's charge into youthfulness has stalled. A year ago, going into the US PGA Championship, the three previous major winners for the season had been in their 20s. This year, Mark O'Meara has arrived as a twice winner at the age of 41 and Lee Janzen, the US Open champion, is 33.

The question, therefore, has been what has happened to the young guns? But not among the players, according to the 1997 Open champion Justin Leonard. "It's not something that I really think about," Leonard said. "I measure people by height, not age."

While Ernie Els, the third of the trio of titans from last season, did not tee off until later in the day, Leonard and Tiger Woods were quickly onto the leaderboard on the first morning of the 80th USPGA. Woods recovered from a bogey at the first to get to one under par at the turn and then birdied the 10th and the 11th while Leonard birdied three of the first four holes.

Since winning the Players'

Championship in March, Leonard has had a quiet time.

The 26-year-old Texan only just

survived the cut at both the US

and British Opens, while he has

had to settle for a tie in each of

the last two tournaments in the

States. "It has been disappo-

ting but I can find some

good things over the first two

days I'll get some confidence

back," he said.

If that happened quicker

than he was expecting, the

poker-faced Leonard was giv-

ing no sign. With his ability to

work the ball, the decision to

bring the event to Sahalee for

the first time was possibly the

spark Leonard needed.

"I enjoy the golf course," he

said. "You have to shape the ball

off the tees and it seems you are

always hitting around some

tree, or a pond, into the

green. You have to really work

the ball and, when I am playing

well, that is something I'm very

comfortable with."

The course is also to the lik-

ing of Ian Woosnam, naturally

enough for a man who has

been a frequent winner at

Woolworths and Woburn. The

weather, hot but not humid, has

also met his approval. Woosnam

went to the turn in one over par

as his tee shot at the short fifth almost

finding the cup in one. An-

other survivor of the

qualifying period, however,

is the 1997 Open champion,

Mark James. "It does turn out to be

Mark, he is someone I know very well. I admire his com-

petitiveness," Crenshaw said.

"It's just terrible," Crenshaw

said. "I've never had a year

where I have played with so little

confidence. I have exper-

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I have not seen anything to

build on. I can't think of any

facet of my game which gives

me any confidence."

Part of Crenshaw's distract-

ions are provided by the

American Ryder Cup captain

for the next match at Brookline

in 13 months time. The European captain will be

named until the end of the

month, just prior to when the

qualifying period begins, but the

favourite for the post is Mark

James. "If it does turn out to be

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for the next match at Brookline

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James. "If it does turn out to be

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# SPORT

HEAT IS ON FOR SCHUMACHER P26 • DESAILLY'S CHALLENGE P22



## Pay-per-view this season

### FOOTBALL

BY GLENN MOORE

PAY-PER-VIEW football television coverage will be introduced this season but not for championship-deciding games. Vic Wakeling, the newly-appointed head of Sky's sports division, yesterday revealed that he expected PPV "to happen this season but not this year." But he pledged that for the duration of the present contract "a Manchester United-Arsenal a title decider, would never be on pay-per-view. We couldn't do that to our subscribers. A pay-per-view game will be on top of our normal coverage."

Wakeling denied Sky were worried about being sued by subscribers but said it was not worth the "piss-off" factor to make them pay for premium matches. However, PPV could involve a relegation battle, a match

featuring a mid-table team with strong support such as Middlesbrough or Newcastle, a cup replay, or an away European tie. At present it would be a match which would be sold out.

"We are talking to more than one administrative body and it will come in one shape or another," added Wakeling, presumably referring to the FA, the FA Premier League, the Nationwide League and Uefa.

Sky still have to see off a court challenge from the Office of Fair Trading over the legality of the current exclusive deal but they are confident that by the time the legal processes are finished the five-year contract - which begins its third season on Sunday - will be near completion. However, Wakeling added: "If we lose the case - and we are in with the BBC in this - the prospects are terrifying for football. The top half dozen clubs will be picked

up and the rest will have to take the crumbs."

Wakeling, who has been on a summer fact-finding mission in the United States, also said that improvements would soon be made to Sky's coverage including new camera angles, enabling viewers, if they so desire, to watch the entire match from behind the goal. Widescreen TV is on the cards as is more immediate use of the channel's virtual reality technique, which may ultimately be quick enough to use to examine lbw appeals in cricket.

Pay-per-view has not, however, been a success where it has been introduced elsewhere in Europe such as France or Italy but industry insiders believe that the difference in England is that the game is buoyant and the principle of paying for television on subscription is already established. Sky's best take-up so far for boxing has been £50,000

homes for Frank Bruno versus Mike Tyson but it is accepted that that was a special case. However, the company's market penetration has since increased and there are also a substantial number of potential viewers who watch in pubs and clubs.

Sky's success in promoting their product through the coverage of live television sport has since been copied by cable television companies and Channel 5 and it is anticipated that live sport, especially football, will remain a major factor in reaching new customers for the ever-expanding range of television channels. Financially, this can only benefit the game though there is still much uncertainty over whether the distribution of spoils will be to football's long-term benefit.

Premiership preview, pages 22 and 23  
Kelly defends Hoddle, page 27

## FA drops Clough 'bung' case



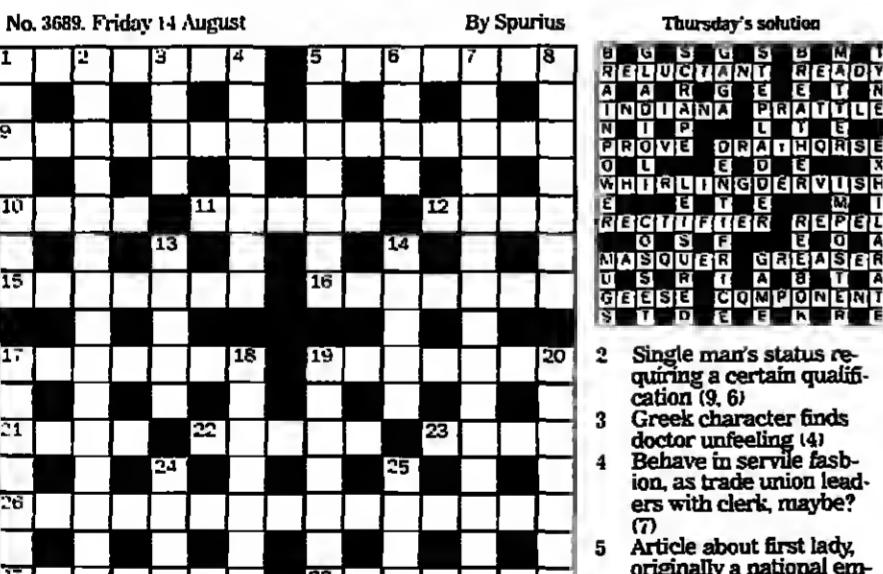
THE FOOTBALL Association announced yesterday that Brian Clough, the former Nottingham Forest manager, will not have to face a disciplinary hearing in the wake of the recent "bung" inquiry because of his poor health.

Clough, 63, had been accused of misconduct for allegedly accepting unauthorised payments in transfer deals following the publication of the findings of the lengthy investigation.

But the FA said in a statement that "it would not be in the best interests of the game to pursue the misconduct charge against Mr Clough because of his poor health."

The statement continued: "Mr Clough has provided medical evidence which indicates that he is unfit to attend a personal hearing. The FA consider

### THE FRIDAY CROSSWORD



ACROSS  
1 Government advisory body in Egypt (7)  
5 Harmful substance obtainable in Caribbean island, small quantity for \$1000 (7)  
9 Reticent when giving amount civic menu wasted (15)  
10 Plane grounded? (4)  
11 Fish is served by Bianca's sister (5)  
12 Seabird moving backwards when crossing land (4)  
15 It's cold and dark outside (4-3)  
16 Voter's customary function given backing, reinforced by European court (7)

17 Platform, unusual sort with strange surround (7)  
19 Rubbish burning initially confined to outbuilding (7)  
21 Subscriptions payable directly to society (4)  
22 Limp encrustation found in pan (5)  
23 Work makes you sick after a short time (4)  
26 System which relies on the fans being properly? (3-12)  
27 Proposition suggested by article more controversial? (7)  
28 Suspect one carrying bomb to be an agent (7)  
DOWN  
1 Sardonic Commander-in-Chief touring Australia (7)

## Rowell and Dwyer team up at Bristol

### RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWITT

BRISTOL'S LONG-SUFFERING rugby aficionados prefer not to think about their club's first double whammy of the summer; after all, the combination of relegation and bankruptcy is as bad as it gets. Happily, the West Countrymen were able to celebrate a more agreeable one-two yesterday as they named a brace of former international coaches, Jack Rowell and Bob Dwyer, in an extraordinarily high-powered team charged with restoring top flight action to the Memorial Ground.

It was without doubt the managerial coup of the year and quite possibly of the decade; in footballing terms, it was as if Terry Venables and Arsene Wenger had agreed to pool their considerable talents in an effort to rescue, say, Manchester City from the depths of despair.

The new Bristol will be bankrolled by Malcolm Pearce, a multi-millionaire local businessman with a self-confessed addiction to "the funny-shaped ball", and feature Rowell, the former England coach, as a non-executive director; and Dwyer, the *éminence grise* behind Australia's World Cup triumph in 1991, in the more hands-on role

of director of rugby. Nick de Scossa has replaced Jeff Lewis as chief executive.

As ever with Bristol, there was a nasty little smudge on the clean slate. Two of the club's few remaining prize assets, the veteran scrum-half Robert Jones and the exciting young No 8 Jim Browrigg, were being pursued by Cardiff and Bath respectively. Both were expected to jump ship.

Paul Burke, the Irish international stand-off elected as captain for next season, was hopeful that a majority of the existing squad would remain on board. "We haven't been paid for seven weeks and the pressure has been growing on the guys with mortgages and families to think about, but I'm willing to stick around to find out what is on the table and I think most of my colleagues will do likewise," he said.

What goes on the table is likely to be a whole lot less than the existing squad have been used to: De Scossa, a local second row forward made good in the ever more ruthless world of big business, insisted Pearce's money would not be frittered away with abandon. "The club had 30 people driving around in company cars last season and the players' mobile phone bill was close to £50,000," he said. "That sort of thing is clearly unsustainable. Rugby as a whole is heading for a brick wall financially and we want to put ourselves ahead of the game by running a viable operation."

Roughly translated, De Scossa's comments indicated a move towards semi-profession

sional status for all but the most senior members of the squad. Pearce, a close associate of Rowell's during the latter's glory years at Bath, has never been wholly convinced by the merits of full-time rugby and intends to use his extensive network of business contacts to place his players with sympathetic employers.

Rowell had originally been earmarked for the rugby directorship but, at the last minute, he decided he could not afford the time away from his burgeoning business portfolio. However, his appearance on the new board, where he joins the Bristol Rovers chairman, Geoff Dunford, will still be of immense interest to those tribally motivated supporters who prefer to remember him as the Great Satan rather than a great coach.

According to Pearce, though, both Bath and Gloucester have bent over backwards to help their local rivals through the trauma of the last few weeks. "They've even offered to loan us players," he said. "To my way of thinking, that sort of supportive attitude makes rugby what it is. I've been watching Bath since I was five but my passion is for the game rather than a single club."

Pearce declined to discuss the extent of his stake, either in terms of cash or time. "I'm committed to Bristol for at least as long as it takes them to beat Bath back at the Memorial Ground," he smiled. Judging by recent results, rugby's latest *éminence grise* has just taken himself into a job for life.

More rugby union, page 27

## Cafés are on pavements.

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Nick Faldo follows his drive off the third tee during the first round of the PGA Championship at Sahalee Country Club in Redmond, Washington, yesterday

Harry How/Allsport

J. V. 14.8.98

# A slice of the action

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION

They used a machete to try to separate Louis Makin from his arms and legs. No one's talking, but the police and ambulance men recognise the signs of the bad old days of the Manchester drugs war. A new breed of gangster is in town, and they will go anywhere, do anything (and do anybody) to get what they want

**O**n Sunday night 25-year old Louis Makin was helping a friend to decorate his house. As the paint dried they watched the highlights of the Charity Shield football match. Before the final whistle blew on Arsenal's 3-0 victory over Manchester United, two balaclava-clad men burst through the front door. They were armed with machetes. Makin made a dash for the back door. As he saw his friend fly through the garden, he himself was knocked to the kitchen floor. The first machete blow clipped his shoulder. As he lay sprawled on the floor, the two men hacked at his body. When Makin raised his limbs to protect himself, his right arm was all but severed. The attack was sudden, and very bloody.

Shortly before midnight an ambulance attended the scene in Thompson Street in Leigh, Greater Manchester. Makin was barely conscious. At the Royal Bolton Hospital doctors spent 48 hours trying to stem the bleeding. It was feared that Makin would lose his arm, and possibly also a leg, but surgeons saved both. His condition is critical and police are prepared to launch a murder enquiry. His friend is under 24-hour police protection.

Detectives are uncertain whether Makin was even the intended victim. They are not ruling out the possibility that he was accidentally caught up in a string of terror tactics by rival drug-dealing gangs fighting over the local heroin and cocaine trade.

Eleven days previously, it is believed that the same men attacked a 37-year old man with machetes at his home in Sumner Street in nearby Atherton. Police were called after a gun had been discharged, and a second man in a nearby house had been badly beaten. Police also have information about a further assault in the immediate area, days before. None of the injured has pressed charges. Police are appealing to local people to report any strange cars and unfamiliar young men seen in the area.

Ferocious gang violence is far from the norm round these parts. Leigh and Atherton are both geographically and traditionally removed from Manchester's inner-city blight; they are much closer to Wigan than the main gang turf in Moss Side, Cheetham Hill and Salford.

Clive Heather, an ambulance officer of 25 years' standing, works at the central manage-

ment unit in charge of the entire county. He is shocked by recent events in an area normally associated only with routine domestic violence, and high spirits after the pubs close. He says: "This has come as quite a surprise. These incidents are totally out of character. There's something organised building up in the area and it's very, very worrying."

His gut feeling, he adds, is that this will not be the last of it. After two ambulance officers were physically attacked in separate incidents last weekend, he called on staff in the area to be prepared for a "tit-for-tat scenario". Like their colleagues in Manchester's better known hot spots, staff are being warned to don bullet-proof jackets. "It's a question of heightening the awareness of our staff for their own protection," he says. "We'll be keeping a careful watch on the area to see whether it's going to become another hot spot. If it is, we'll act accordingly."

BY OLIVER SWANTON

That Manchester's gangsters will travel to establish their brutal authority is no surprise. Gang politics in the city are in turmoil. A new breed of young gangsters are on the look-out for their slice of the action. Simultaneously the total action is rapidly decreasing. Money is tight, and things are not what they were. New areas must be exploited. Competition is tough and tempers are easily frayed.

The current crop of gang bosses made their fortunes on the back of the rave explosion of the late Eighties. They had wrestled control from their predecessors before Mrs Thatcher won her second term. A wind of change was blowing through the underworld. Biggs, safe-breakers and hard men in Jags belonged to a bygone era. The new kids on the block were perfectly - if accidentally - poised to reap the huge rewards of the acid-house boom.

A decade ago the average hobby on the beat had no idea what ecstasy was. It was a quiet revolution that was to spill out of Manchester's night clubs to change the face of Britain. It was a big deal that made a lot of gangsters very, very rich - some certainly became millionaires.

It was worth much more than the heroin trade of the Eighties. Weekend in, weekend out ravers purchased ecstasy, speed and acid in order to dance all night and then smoked cannabis to chill

out, come down and sleep it off. Tens of thousands of ravers travelled from all over the country to Manchester and the North-west.

And if you control the night-club door you control the supply of drugs on the dance floor. Gangsters provided the bouncers and the bouncers decided who could deal drugs in their club. As things got nasty the bouncers charged as much as £50 an hour to keep "troublemakers" out. The gangsters got even richer.

Then, in the early Nineties, everything went pear-shaped. The tabloids were

screaming blue murder, a girl on ecstasy died, and rival security firms were waging a "door war" over control of the now lucrative bouncing contracts. The police had to clean things up. The Criminal Justice Act gave them more powers to do so.

By now ecstasy culture had permeated to the furthest reaches of society. Every clubber (they'd stopped calling themselves "ravers") knew someone who knew someone who could get them pills, whizz, tabs, hash. They were no longer reliant on dodgy dealers in shady corners of clubs. At the same time, new strains of super-weed infiltrated Britain from Amsterdam. Growing your own was the new hobby. The gangs started losing valuable mark-up.

New money and new contacts abroad began to bring new and more sophisticated guns into play. A gang war between the main factions that had rumbled on in one form or another since the early Eighties reached dizzy heights. The full Americanisation of Manchester's gangs was complete when, in broad daylight, gangsters opened fire on each other with machine-guns at a crowded carnival.

The writing was on the wall. Forty balaclaved Salford hooligans fought running battles with riot police inside Horne night-club. The gangsters were killing the goose that laid the

golden egg. The public were scared off and in 1994, like many clubs before it - and even more after it - Horne closed. The police had the gang bosses under round-the-clock surveillance. Unable to operate openly, they recruited and armed teenagers on mountain bikes to run errands, money and drugs. If they were caught, at least they were under the age of criminal responsibility. Now the teenagers have grown up and want their slice of the action.

But there's very little left intact. The last large credible dance club closed last month. The police are driving the "bad apples" out of town: armed police set up blockades, stopping - and thoroughly searching - known gangsters' cars on approach roads to the city centre. What few protection rackets there are, are tied up. Raiding the growing number of designer stores is no longer an option, now that the council has finally erected closed-circuit TV cameras.

Malcolm (not his real name) says he can't be bothered to stand on street corners selling "stones" (crack cocaine). On an average day he's lucky if he makes 40 quid. "Dibble" (the police) are right on top of him. And anyway that's a kid's job. He's 18 and been "running" (a gang member) for years. He's owed some proper "change" (money). There's plenty of "players" (gang bosses) driving around in sports cars, and he wants his. He's "packing" (armed) and if he's got to "drop" (murder) someone to get it, then so be it. (The competition's tough, and tempers are easily frayed.)

And that brings us back to Louis Makin. He lived a million miles from the inner city pressure, but the gangs are expanding in search of change. He wasn't involved. He wasn't "running". He was just in the wrong house at the wrong time.

Continued on page 8

**It's where the Hunchback hung out.**

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**INSIDE**

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**Engineered crops**  
Sir: Genetically unengineered plants cause cancer, and some contain genes for making deadly poisons, scientists admitted yesterday. A spokesman agreed that deadly "tobacco" plants, responsible for countless deaths from lung cancer, are genetically unengineered. I can reveal that the toxins in deadly nightshade, death cap fungi and puff adder venom are produced by unengineered genes. Science proves! Run for your lives!

All plants, and all animals including humans, are genetically modified. That is what evolution means. They are genetically modified by natural selection of random mutations and recombinations. Some, such as maize, wheat, cabbages and roses are additionally modified by domestic breeding. And some are modified by engineered mutation or recombinant.

Any of these three kinds of genetic modification can have desirable or undesirable consequences, for they all end up doing exactly the same thing: changing genomes. Some newspapers bear a heavy responsibility for whipping up ignorant hysteria over scientific matters.

**RICHARD DAWKINS**  
Simonyi Professor of the Public Understanding of Science  
University Museum  
Oxford

Sir: We read that Professor Pusztai has admitted that the claimed results of his research into genetically modified food were misleading ("Researcher in genetic food scare is suspended from job", 13 August). To quote from the same article: "Dan Verakis, spokesman for Monsanto, said the retraction proved consumers had nothing to worry about."

It proves nothing of the sort. There is an essential difference between *absence of proof of risk* and *proof of absence of risk*. So far, we have the former. What we need in this overwhelmingly important issue is the *surest* we can get to the latter.

**PATRICIA ATYEO**  
Church Hanborough  
Oxfordshire

Sir: Does Dan Verakis, Monsanto's public affairs manager (Right of Reply, 11 August) really think that the public will be reassured by research taking "up to three years". The experience of this century - asbestos, pneumoconiosis, smoking, thalidomide - is that any amount of testing cannot predict side-effects, which often take years or decades to manifest themselves. Will Mr Verakis be around in 2050 to wring his hands and protest that no one could have predicted the long-term effects of genetic interference with our food?

**ANDREW C BLUNDY**  
London SE7

### No knife-edge

Sir: Your front-page report ("Economy on knife-edge" (later editions, 13 August) is inaccurate and completely contradicts your own earlier editions.

The last few days have been filled with ill-informed comment on the economy, which has swung from one extreme to the other. Yet the facts are that unemployment has continued to fall and we have seen a welcome reduction in earnings growth.

Balanced and rational discussion is helpful in increasing understanding of the global nature of economic pressures and the role we all have to play in ensuring a responsible approach to achieving future prosperity.

I did not say "the economy is on a knife edge", nor do I believe it to be so. On *Channel 4 News* on Wednesday I was discussing the manufacturing sector in Sheffield and the part which everyone can play in keeping inflationary pressures down to avoid the need for further interest rate rises.

Ministers understand the



Charlton Athletic FC: the club shop. 'Please Daddy, can I have...' (after spending £32.40 on Charlton teddies, videos and hats)

Brian Harris

concerns of manufacturers, but what businesses fear most is a return to the "boom and bust" of the late 1980s and early 1990s when interest rates hit 15 per cent and a million manufacturing jobs were lost.

We are on course to achieve economic stability. As a result of the immediate and tough decisions this government has taken, and consistent with Budget forecasts, there is a necessary slowing of inflationary pressures so that the economy gets back on track to low inflation matched by steady and sustainable growth.

**DAVID BLUNKETT**  
Secretary of State  
Department for Education and Employment  
London SW1

those few advisors who may be commission-driven will soon find that they are losing business to more professional and cost-effective advisers.

Some years ago the insurance industry itself did propose maximum commission agreements between the insurers/institutions. The Office for Fair Trading deemed it "anti-competitive" and banned it.

Many independent financial advisers offer to work on a fee basis. However, most clients are unwilling to pay for this service, particularly if no subsequent business is transacted.

**GRAHAM POGSON**  
Independent Financial Adviser  
London SW13

Sir: We are told that the Government now proposes to

come down heavily on the insurance companies which "mis-sold" private pensions. I confess I am not quite sure what this word means. I cannot find it in any of my dictionaries. But it is clearly conduct which deserves to be punished.

We now learn that part of our railway system was sold off by the last government for about one billion pounds less than it was worth. Was it "mis-sold"? If so, cannot the present government do something about it?

**GRAHAM DON**  
London E3

### Church of Africa

Sir: So Trevor Phillips had only heard of two African bishops until this year's Lambeth Conference (Comment, 10 August). He needs a

little education on the blood and thunder religion of Africa that is throwing up bishops who bear a not unhealthy resemblance to John the Baptist, and who certainly speak in no more forthright terms than his, when faced by the soft effeminate of much Western belief.

African Christians are rightly outraged when the very faith that the white missionaries struggled to bring them is then stood on its head and depicted of its power and moral fibre. No wonder the Africans at Lambeth turned on a pusillanimous liberalism that is rapidly emptying many of the churches in this country as well as in the USA. It is no small insult, when members of your flock and your own colleagues have died in defence of the biblical faith and ethic, only to be told that these

doctrines need not have been believed after all.

Trevor Phillips dismisses the Africans as being part of the colonial and neocolonial establishment. No, it is liberalism that is on its way out. Lambeth showed in no uncertain manner where the centre of Anglican belief lies.

**PREBENDARY RICHARD BEWES**  
Rector All Souls, Langham Place  
London W1

Sir: Unfortunately, the opinions expressed by the Anglican African Bishops on the subject of homosexuals, rather than being, as Trevor Phillips says, an attempt

"to go back to some fire-and-brimstone version of Anglicanism" (was there ever such a thing?), reflect the attitudes towards homosexuality commonly found in Africa today. These range from persecution to accusations of homosexuality being a Western disease, or a total denial of its existence. If in doubt listen to any of the words of President Mugabe of Zimbabwe on the subject.

**JEAN-MARC EVANS**  
London N3

### CS gas alarm

Sir: The death of another man with mental health problems following the use of CS ("Man's death raises alarm over police use of CS spray", 11 August) strengthens our long-held view that increased arming of the police and the use of new weapons, be they guns, new-style batons or CS, inevitably results in more deaths. The current review of national police training should look at reducing the use of all weapons by the police unless the Government is prepared to tolerate the continued level of serious injury and loss of life and subsequent loss of confidence in the police.

It appears that the use of CS by the police has become routine in situations where time spent taking could defuse the situation. Spraying people with mental health problems is a violent act that can only frighten the individual and lead to serious injury and in some cases contribute to loss of life. The Government have defended its use on the grounds that it is potentially less harmful than a baton (Lords written answers, 6 August 1998) but the real questions to be asked is why violence is seen as the

preferred option above negotiation and dialogue.

**HELEN SHAW**  
Co-Director, Inquest  
London N4

### IN BRIEF

hounds in action, dispatching this "pest species". The last few days have clearly exposed the claims of the hunting brigade that their activities are anything other than a cruel form of entertainment. When country people really need to control pests, they reach for their guns and their traps. They do not call out the hounds.

**JONATHAN PINKNEY-BAIRD**  
UK Director  
International Fund for Animal Welfare  
Cronborough, East Sussex

Sir: David Ararowitch's splendid article "Modern women may decide their place is at home with the children" (11 August) suggests that in the future women may have the right to take extended leave from work in order to raise their children and

still be promoted *in absentia*. I assume, then, that I will be able to pursue my lifelong dream of husking my way around the Pacific Rim and then return to my company as a newly appointed director.

**ALEX MEADOWS**  
Rugby, Warwickshire

Sir: George Steiner in his Proms Lecture (Podium, 12 August) muses on the "narcotic magic" of the music of Wagner inspiring the "cooty visions" of Nazism in Adolf Hitler and Zionism in Theodore Herzl. This contradiction would not be so "unfathomable" to the continuing victims of the latter doctrine: the Palestinians. From their viewpoint, one group of people has been encouraged to dominate, dispossess and exclude another.

**CLAIRE DABBAGH**  
High Wycombe,  
Buckinghamshire

### How to enjoy the beautiful game when Saturday comes

**TOMORROW** IS the big day. Until this summer, you had resisted the social pressure to join the Saturday afternoon crowd. You had read your Nick Hornby but had been unimpressed by his portrait of a game as some kind of tedious universal metaphor. You were irritated by the way everyone seems to have become infected by a Motsu-nesque world-view. Give and go, late tackle, he'll be disappointed with himself for that one: how puerile all it seemed.

It changed, didn't it? Maybe it was the *Blanco Bounce* or the chirpy Nigerians, or the enchantingly naive Americans. Even before Hoddle's Heartbreak Heroes triumphed, all but technically, against the Argies, you were hooked.

Now you cannot wait for the new season to start. You have chosen

your team. You have bought your scarf. But do you know how to behave when Saturday comes?

**ON BEING MOVED ALONG BY A POLICEMAN ON A HORSE**  
Football fans and police officers have a jostling, happy relationship. So when a mounted policeman attempts to herd you forward with other supporters, nothing amuses him more than if you surreptitiously loosen the girths of his saddle. Seeing a PC slither under his horse's stomach will always add to the good spirit of the occasion.

**CHATTING WITH SUPPORTERS OF THE OPPONING TEAM**  
Ever since football was transformed from being a national disgrace into the game with a smile on its face, clubs have encouraged

fans to mingle with each other, comparing the relative merits of each team with good-natured ragging and badinage. If you are lucky enough to be surrounded by opposing supporters, it can add to the atmosphere to express a provocatively interesting view of their players, asking, for example, the name of the big carthorse they have in central defence. If they express disappointment with one of their own team, do not hesitate to agree.

**SUPPORTING THE SINCERE EFFORTS AT IMPARTIALITY ON THE PART OF THE REFEREE**  
There are few lonelier jobs in football than that of referee. At moments of controversy, express your solidarity with the official by standing up, pointing your finger and singing a traditional song created

in the memory of the World Cup's first referee, the Burmese legend Husha Wan Ka. Many a game has

been marked by supporters revealing their sense of history by chanting "Husha Wan Ka, Husha Wan Ka, Husha Wan Ka in the black".

**EXPRESSING SOLIDARITY WITH FANS IN THE TRADITIONAL WAY**

Although the abolition of terracing has sadly led to decline in this practice, there are moments when supporters, standing close together, bond with the fan in front of them by "marking" them rather as dogs mark lampposts. Do not on any account remonstrate if someone marks you in this manner. It is his way of saying, with direct, manly body language, "You're all right, mate (or darling). You're one of us."

**WATCHING YOU ARE PEOPLE IN YELLOW COATS KNOWN AS "STEWARDS".** They are there to make you feel at home, rather in the manner of Redcoats at Butlin's holiday camps. A sure way of endearing yourself to a steward is to run on to the pitch when a goal is scored, skipping past his attempts to bring you down, and gambol about, swinging from the crossbar of the goal, embracing players and waving to the crowd. Purists insist you should remove all your clothes before you invade the pitch but this is a skilled manoeuvre that should perhaps be kept until your third or fourth visit.

**CONVERSING WITH MIDDLE-CLASS INTELLECTUALS IN THE CROWD**

These days, every club has its resident media thinker. Leicester City has Julian Barnes, Spurs have

### Police road-blocks

Sir: Would I be alone in expressing the utmost abhorrence after reading your report on "Operation Mermaid" ("Drivers face random searches at nationwide police road blocks", 12 August)?

Is the new "Cool Britannia" to become a police state? If there is any substance to your report then civil libertarians the world over have every cause for concern. It all means use every legitimate effort to track down those who perpetrate benefit fraud or any other criminal activity; do not do so utilising taxpayers' money in such an underhand way.

Shame on you, Mr Blair and your cronies. According to the principles of natural justice, two wrongs will never make a right. And, being a lawyer, you really should know better.

**ANTHONY BOGAN**  
Solicitor  
Member of the Council of the Law Society of England & Wales  
London W12

Sir: The smaller-scale Operation Mermaid in June (reports, 12, 13 August) in which individuals were randomly stopped and questioned by the Benefits Agency, was carried out at ports, with cars being stopped under the guise of questioning from Customs, as well as by police on the roads.

I was stopped at 7.30 on a Monday morning at Dover, returning from a weekend in France and on my way to work. After being asked to show my ticket and passport, I was passed on to a Benefits Agency officer, who said she was going to ask me "a few questions". She did not tell me that I had the right to refuse to answer, or that I would subsequently be asked to sign a statement on the spot. It was an intimidating situation - I was in a Customs shed, surrounded by people in uniform and facing a locked door. I therefore did not protest at the time, despite feeling that this was a gross invasion of my privacy.

A letter of complaint to the then secretary of State for Social Security was passed to the Benefits Agency in Dover, who replied by saying that, according to their officer, I had been "happy to co-operate". Questions about the taking of statements, the purpose and effectiveness of the operation, and the authority under which it was carried out have not yet been answered.

I was glad to read that I am not alone in finding the Benefits Agency's need to hide behind other people's skirts in order to look for needles in haystacks to be pretty reprehensible.

**MARY RICE**  
London SW16

Has Bill on the



### TERENCE BLACKER

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# Science's love of publicity



JOHN  
MADDOX

*There is good evidence that researchers deliberately set out to scoop their competitors*

NOT EVERY day is a scientist "effectively sacked", to use Dr Arpad Pusztai's own words. To many of his fellow scientists, it will seem yet more proof that meddling with the press (or in this case a television programme, *World in Action*) is a recipe for the worst disasters. Yet relations between professional scientists and the media are not openly antagonistic. Instead, they are shot through with ambivalence. The professionals now look to the media to tell their own stories favourably, and in a way that will help secure research funds.

Dr Pusztai's case is unusual. Widely known for his knowledge of the plant proteins called lectins, he was working at the Rowett Research Station in Scotland and involved in an experiment that was clearly a preparation for a more rigorous test of the safety of genetically-modified potatoes. The lectins come into the tale because they are natural insecticides: plants making them are expected to be resistant to attack. Eventually, the people at the laboratory would have fed genetically modified potatoes to rats to see whether they were harmed. Lacking real modified potatoes, they had used the ordinary version doused with pure lectins from various plants (not potatoes).

Yesterday's newspapers were full of Pusztai's thumbnail account of the experiment. Yet the distinction between real modified potatoes and the spiked diet fed to the rats was never explained. If it had been, the irrelevance of the experiment to the safety of genetically-modified potatoes would have been plain. Sceptical readers asking "What was the dose of lectin?" could not have learned the answer. Yet Dr Pusztai seemed pleased with the outcome of the TV appearance, being quoted as saying that "the jack-bean lectin gene will never get a licence".

It is not clear whether his error (in the eyes of the managers of the Rowett) was bureaucratic (not clearing what he wanted to say in advance) or scientific (drawing practical conclusions from the results of a preliminary experiment). But there is no suggestion that either he or his research programme would have prospered



Some scientists will claim any discovery to get on the front page of 'The New York Times'. A scene from 'Frankenstein'

because of his appearance. Would that were more often the case!

Even before the present cut-throat competition for research funds, the ambivalence of the most earnest laboratory workers about publicity has been clear. I first learned this when I started working as a journalist (on what was then *The Manchester Guardian*). I embarked on writing an experiment at Harwell in which radioactive iodine was being fed to a goat called Doris. I telephoned the man in charge, whose surname was Williams. Most reluctantly, he parted with the essential information, which was that the objective was to learn something of the transfer of dietary iodine to the thyroid gland (a matter of great importance in understanding the high incidence of thyroid cancer among the people of Belarus as

a consequence of Chernobyl).

Williams and I ended our conversation barely on speaking terms, so plainly had he made his point about the malevolent capacity of journalists to get things wrong. But then he called back to say that he was anxious that I had taken down his initials correctly. He explained that there was another Williams working in much the same field, and that he had not got to be confused with the other fellow.

Now, much more egregious instances of scientists seeking publicity are commonplace. Perhaps the most striking recent illustration is the great hoop-la attending the announcement by a group of NASA scientists that they had found "evidence" of life in a meteorite reaching the Earth from Mars. There was a proper scientific paper

in an American journal, but also a press conference orchestrated by NASA itself.

Although the members of the team responsible hedged everything they said with the proper qualifications, the impression left in the minds of the world's newspaper readers is that there was, indeed, life on Mars at some stage in the distant past. That cannot have been inconvenient for NASA, which is looking for a strong wind in the sails of its high (and expensive) ambitions for the exploration of Mars.

It is especially disappointing that many individual scientists now seem eager to follow the same path. Often, their universities will arrange the press conference. If the news of their latest discovery should find its way onto the front page of the *New York Times* (US

scientists are more competitive than most other countries), that is counted as worthwhile as the discovery itself.

That working scientists are concerned that they should be given credit for what they discover is understandable. In the last resort, the report of a scientist's work in the record is all that posterity will know about his contribution. But that does not require current publicity, but rather the judgement of those able to read the scientific record and to reflect on it.

So why do serious scientists seek publicity, even if awkwardly (like Dr Williams and his goat)? The standard excuse is that publicity helps to win research grants and is good for morale in the laboratory. There is no evidence for the first claim; most grant-making bodies

are inclined to scepticism. And the boost to laboratory morale may be short-lived, as when other scientists start chipping away at over-blown claims. Remember Dolly, the Roslin Institute's first cloned sheep, and the later assertion that her cloning could not be authenticated?

There is a great need for the research profession to take a cooler view of publicity for its discoveries. There is good evidence that researchers deliberately set out to scoop their competitors, even taking advantage of information gleaned during the refereeing process. Such activities are corrosive of the civility of the scientific enterprise, which prides itself on the notion that it is a common enterprise. Newspapers need to police themselves as rigorously as researchers do.

## RIGHT OF REPLY



The Beatles' biographer responds to Max Clifford's remarks about his role in their career

ON WEDNESDAY ("You Ask the Questions"), you let Max Clifford get away with one of the whoppers he has been peddling for many years. It may be true, it may be only a slight exaggeration, or it may be total cobblers, but once again he has been allowed to state publicly, without any cross examination, without a "wow, Max, how did you do it?", or even a "but, er, tell us a few more details about how exactly you made The Beatles famous". For that is what he appears to be claiming.

But did he? I have 200 books about the Beatles, yet not one mentions Mr Clifford.

The Beatles had their own PR people and the brilliant Brian Epstein working hard to promote them, though they scarcely needed much publicity because all that really happened in 1962 when they joined Parlophone – one of the minor parts of the EMI empire – was that the success they had achieved in Liverpool and Hamburg, with no publicity at all, was repeated, this time on a national scale.

Then people from the US to Japan reacted exactly in the same way once they had heard the music. Very strange. Almost spontaneous combustion, or so I have always thought. But I could be wrong. It was Max who done it. Or so he says.

EMI employed many persons. It would be useful if Mr Clifford could tell us the exact dates he was there, and in what capacity. Head of PR, director of marketing? Must have been pretty impressive, to look back upon his time there, "launching The Beatles", as the biggest success in his whole professional life.

I am not suggesting he is a fibber. I am only asking questions. I hope that Mr Clifford will one day be kind enough to reveal the details of the brilliant work he must have done in launching The Beatles.

# The poet as frustrated composer



## FRIDAY BOOK

WAKEFULNESS  
BY JOHN ASHBERY. CARCANET PRESS. £7.95

HAROLD BLOOM regards him as something akin to a genius; James Fenton, Oxford professor of poetry, calls him a bore and a phoney. Few other poets of John Ashbery's age and eminence – he is in his seventies now, and this is his 18th collection – can have so divided the critics. Why is this? I asked him once. "Well, it disappoints me," he replied with a characteristically self-deprecating sigh, "since I write hoping that people will read and like what I've written, and I don't want to antagonise people. It turns out that I'm much stranger than I thought I was."

That is quite true. Ashbery is very strange indeed. And he has spawned a pack of equally strange imitators, which includes the companionable Manchester-born poet John Ash. But where did all this strangeness come from? To get a clue to the answer, you need to know a little about his background and interests. It would also be useful to consult an early book of two – the recently published omnibus edition of his first five collections of poetry, called *The Mooring of Starting Out* (Carcanet, £25) for example, or his Pulitzer Prize-winning collection of the middle Seventies, *Self-Portrait in a Convex Mirror*. When Ashbery started writing, in the late For-

ties, American poetry was dominated by a kind of poker-faced academic formalism. He and other poets who have been loosely grouped together as the New York School (Frank O'Hara, James Schuyler, Kenneth Koch) set sail in a different direction altogether. Encouraged by the liberating influence of French Surrealism, they moved towards poetry that was more intellectually fanciful and flighty, more colloquial, more playful and humorous, more flexible in its approach to metrics.

Ashbery spent 10 years in Paris, and it was there that he first began to write art criticism for the *International Herald Tribune*. One of his most self-revelatory critical pieces was an interview with Henri Michaux, the Belgian neo-Surrealist Michaux said in the course of that

interview that Surrealism had given him "la grande permission" to write as he pleased. Ashbery was pleased to do likewise.

And how exactly is Ashbery pleased to write? What is interesting about his writing manner is the extraordinary consistency and continuity that exists between them – his first book, chosen by W.H. Auden for the Yale Younger Poets series, was published in 1952 – and now. Reading an Ashbery poem is rather like walking beside a stranger and eavesdropping on a conversation that he seems to be having with an invisible companion. The conversation is a pretty intimate one, and it spills all over the place, depending upon the responses of the absentee – which, of course, you are never fortunate enough to hear.

The manner can shift, within the space of a line or even a phrase, from the urbane and polished to something disarmingly ridiculous, from Faure to Comic Cuts – as real conversations often do. No sooner do you think that you are hearing about one particular area of interest than you are somewhere else altogether.

Ashbery generally writes while listening to music, and the musical accompaniment to any day's writing depends on his enthusiasms of the moment. Fairly recently he has been enjoying the music of Dominic Muldowney (the composer who regularly collaborates with the poet Tony Harrison) and the extravagantly named, but in fact Glasgow-born, late-19th-century pianist-composer Eugène d'Albert.

Music itself appeals to Ashbery because it is an art form that can mean important things without having to explain itself. And so Ashbery the poet, in this reading, is best enjoyed if viewed as Ashbery the frustrated composer, who is trying to do with words what musicians are lucky enough to be able to do with notes. Hell's bells: who gives a cowpat about the mediation of some tiresome paraphrase?

One of the best poems in this new collection



The poet John Ashbery is strongly influenced by music

Hulton

is a kind of collage of quotations from other poets – Milton, Marvell, Lear and others – called "The Dong with the Luminous Nose", which are juxtaposed in such a way as to bring out their full comic potential when wrenching from their native habitats. The form, as the headline informs us, is a cento, and it dates from the Byzantine era. Ashbery discovered this curiously interesting fact in a curiously interesting piece of writing by Borges.

Ashbery's characteristic tone of voice, with its deadpan humour and abrupt shifts of attention, is difficult to locate at first, and can even seem wilfully bewildering.

One way of relaxing into it is to hear Ashbery read. He sometimes speaks his lines with a kind of deliberately woebegone and world-weary flatness. It is a manner which I once described as the sort of vocal delivery that might encourage a dog to leave home. Some time later, I dropped him a card. By return came a note from his dog, telling me that John was unable to reply because he had just left home.

MICHAEL GLOVER

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## FRIDAY POEM

### SNAKE KEEPER

BY PAMELA WILKIE

Speech slithers between his lips.  
Watch for that furtive tongue  
savouring its sibilants,  
the smile glistening from years  
of cold-blooded rapport.  
Unusual his calibration of delight,  
snake-bite amuses him.

In his den beside the pit  
he offers you a second-hand skin

This is our final selection from *Amble 153*. The magazine costs £6  
for a single copy or £22 for an annual subscription,  
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One of the best poems in this new collection

# Lt-Col Mike Watkins

MIKE WATKINS was one of a rare breed of soldiers who specialised in that most dangerous of peacetime roles, bomb disposal. He was an intellectual and an enthusiast who dedicated his life to the business of explosive ordnance investigation, including service tours in Northern Ireland and helping to find the explosive source of the Lockerbie disaster.

Even for a man who had chosen an extraordinary career, Watkins earned a reputation as a remarkable operator in the dangerous field of ammunition and bomb disposal. Many of those who knew him well have called him visionary and compassionate – the very stuff of a modern, unsung hero. His work to make safe military ammunition from previous generations only added to his reputation as a driving force in this often secretive world.

Born in Newport, Monmouthshire, in 1947, it was at Monmouth Grammar School that Watkins decided on the British Army as a career. He joined the Royal Army Ordnance Corps as a private soldier in 1962 and progressed through the ranks rapidly. After three years' apprenticeship and trade training at Feltham, in Middlesex, and Didcot, Oxfordshire, Watkins was promoted corporal.

In 1966, he undertook the arduous Parachute course, training, gaining his wings at RAF Abingdon and spending three years with 16 Parachute Brigade at Aldershot, where he was promoted to sergeant. He honed his EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) expertise at the British army's Ammunition Inspectorate at Wilton, near Salisbury, before moving to the then home of ammunition technology at Bramley Camp, near Basingstoke. During this time, he also held a war role with 47 Air Despatch Squadron, capitalising on his airborne experience.

By this time, the Army's expertise in EOD was almost on daily call in Northern Ireland. Terrorist bombs were a regular threat to normal life in the Province and soldiers like Mike Watkins were daily risking their lives to defuse home-made bombs and bobby-traps. Watkins and his colleagues have gone without true public awareness because of the nature of the job, which these early days was like venturing into the unknown. Watkins served in Omagh in 1974 and received his first Mention in Despatches – a second followed four years

later during one of two emergency tours in Belfast and South Armagh.

By this time, Watkins had been promoted Warrant Officer Class Two. A desire to use his expertise for the general good had already become apparent. Even before his work in Northern Ireland, he had secured a posting to the British Solomon Islands in 1973 to spend seven months to help dispose of ammunition and aerial bombs left behind by Japanese and US forces in the Second World War, making safe the rural areas of these beautiful islands for agriculture and tourism.

Recognising his expertise and leadership skills, the Army commissioned Watkins in 1980 and as a

*A remarkable operator in the dangerous field of bomb disposal; visionary and compassionate – the very stuff of a modern, unsung hero*

Lieutenant he was posted to 6 Field Force at Aldershot. Within nine months, he was promoted Captain and began training as an Ammunition Technical Officer (ATO), an army bomb disposal expert.

ATO's work in dangerous conditions to defuse devices often fabricated with anti-handling devices – bobby-traps – designed to kill or maim the bomb disposal expert. The very nature of this work is secretive and those who carry it out often need to work under cover. Occasionally, television or newspaper pictures will show army personnel in protective clothing walking purposefully towards a car or building thought to contain a bomb. That's all the public recognition ATOs receive, yet their work has been vital in the towns, cities and rural communities of the United Kingdom where explosives have been placed or discarded.

After two further years of such work in Northern Ireland, Watkins was appointed MBE for his work in the Province and promoted again, to Major in 1986. Then came an important posting as the Senior Ammunition Technical Officer to the Falkland Islands, where he directed a tri-service team clearing explosives, including the legacy of Argentine landmines, left behind after the 1982 invasion.

To use his considerable experience further, the Army posted him to the Ministry of Defence in London in 1990 to oversee the procurement of the specialist equipment and requirements for bombs, landmine and ammunition disposal. Using his experience of bomb disposal around the world, Watkins was able to shape research carried out by the Defence Evaluation & Research Agency and commercial industry into making better, safer equipment to aid the bomb disposal expert.

In 1992, he returned to Didcot as a Lieutenant-Colonel and took over responsibility for explosives safety

and licensing policy within the armed forces. Despite his new position as Head of Explosive Ordnance Disposal at the Directorate of Land Service Ammunition, Royal Logistics Corps, Watkins still found time for his hobbies.

He died tragically, buried under a roof fall, when exploring the maze of tunnels dug by British, Canadian, French and German troops under the trenches of Vimy Ridge, on the Somme battlefield, near Arras in the First World War.

Watkins was no stranger to the 20 miles of tunnels of Vimy Ridge. Earlier this year, as a member of the Durand Group which explores the tunnels on behalf of the French and Canadian governments, he took part in making safe over three tons of deteriorated explosives which threaten the Canadian War Memorial on the surface above. It was the first such disarming to be carried out in the tunnels since 1918. Watkins saw such work, not strictly his army

role, although supported by the Ministry of Defence, as an important task for future generations to be able to enjoy the famous First World War battlefield in safety.

His death is a blow to those researching the tunnels. Watkins had teamed with the television producer Marc Sinden to make a documentary series about the tunnels, which are also vividly described in Sebastian Faulks's award-winning novel *Birdsong*.

His breath of experience and wealth of knowledge, linked to a kind and compassionate nature, made Mike Watkins a father-figure to many a young soldier. He still found time for hang-gliding, veteran rugby, skiing and motor sport.

Paul Beaver

Michael Keith Watkins, born Newport, Monmouthshire 3 July 1947; MBE 1984; married 1989 Rowena Druge (one son); died Vimy Ridge, France 11 August 1998.



Watkins was killed when a tunnel collapsed under First World War trenches at Vimy Ridge

ALTHOUGH SHE was a versatile actress of stage, screen and television, who between 1920 and 1950 had leading roles in over 40 plays, it was through television that Sylvia Field became a well-known name to the general public, with her role as Martha Wilson, the kindly next-door neighbour who always had a smile and plate of warm biscuits ready for the mischievous young lad in the adaptation of *Dennis the Menace*.

Her early roles had included a good share of chorus-girls and vamps, but by the Forties the actress had patented a beguiling line in understanding wives and mothers, perfectly showcased in the classic film comedy *Junior Miss*. In 1941 she married as her third husband the diminutive, raspy-voiced actor Ernest Truex. They had acted on Broadway together playing man and wife as early as 1934 in the bedroom farce *Sing and Whistle*. Truex specialised in flustered and excitable characters which were neatly complemented by the cajolatory and ultra-feminine Field on the frequent occasions that they played a married couple.

Born Harriet Johnson in Aliston, Massachusetts, in 1901, Field attended Arlington High School and in 1918 made her Broadway debut as Joy and the "Veiled Figure" in *The Betrothal*. After more plays and a season in repertory in Canada, she took over the juvenile lead in the long-running comedy thriller *The Cat and the Canary* in New York (1922) and played the same part on tour.

She returned to Broadway to play the title role in *Connie Goes Home* (1923), the first of many leading roles, notably in such landmark productions as George S. Kaufman's *The Butter and Egg Man* (1925), Philip Dunning and George Abbott's smash hit *Broadway* (1926), in which the *New Yorker* lauded her

"superlatively good work" as a chorus girl loved by a dancer, Kaufman and Edna Ferber's *The Royal Family* (1927), in which she played the youngest member of a theatrical dynasty, A.A. Milne's *Give Me Yesterday* (1931), as a Yorkshire girl whose true love forsakes her in pursuit of success, and Richard Maibaum's *Birthright* (1933), which ran for only seven performances but is notable



Sylvia Field, left, with, left to right, her husband Ernest Truex, Cameron Mitchell and Glynis Johns in *All Mine to Give*, 1957

as the first Broadway play to confront the subject of Nazism. Outside New York, Field played such roles as Fanny in Ivor Novello's *Autumn Crocus* and Leonora in John Van Druten's *There's Always Juliet*. After succeeding Dorothy Gish on Broadway as the wife of Oliver Wendell Holmes in *The Magnificent Yankee* (1946), she played the part for a year on tour.

Field made her screen debut with a silent movie, *The Escaped Flapper* (1929), and in the same year had the female lead in MGM's first all-talking gangster film *Voice of the City*, but her finest film role came in 1946 with George Seaton's scintillating adaptation of the Broadway hit *Junior Miss*. As wife to Allyn Joslyn, who is forever on the verge of apoplexy due mainly to the antics

of his youngest daughter, Field, in a performance of warmth and humour, provided a convincing picture of calm and good sense as his loving and understanding partner.

She entered television with a local show about her own domestic life, *The True Family* (she had a daughter and three stepsons), and was a guest star in over 30 shows, including *Perry Mason*, *Father Knows Best* and *Hazel*, but had her greatest successes as Mrs Remington (with Truex as her husband) in *Mr Peepers* (1953-55), and as Martha Wilson in *Dennis the Menace* (1959-62), in which Jay North starred as a live version of Hank Ketcham's cartoon imp. Field's husband in this show, the garrulous George, was played by Joseph Kearns, who died before the end of the 1962 season and was replaced by Gale Gordon, playing George's brother.

Her last major film was the sentimental favourite *All Mine to Give* (1957), called *The Day They Gave Babies Away in Britain*. In this story of an oldest child's efforts to find his baby siblings homes on Christmas Day, after their widowed mother dies, Truex and Field were the village doctor and his wife, who eventually agree to become surrogate parents.

After the death of Truex in 1973, Field remained at their home in Fallbrook, south of Los Angeles, where she enjoyed fishing, golfing, and tending her avocado orchard.

Tom Vallance

Harriet Louise Johnson (Sylvia Field), actress; born Aliston, Massachusetts 14 February 1901; married 1924 Robert J. Prochnich (marriage dissolved 1939); 1930 Harold Moffat (died 1938; one daughter); 1942 Ernest Truex (died 1973; three stepsons); died Fallbrook, California 31 July 1998.

## Rosemary Edmonds

ROSEMARY EDMONDS was one of the doughty band of translators enlisted by Penguin Books after the Second World War to open foreign classics to the mass audience. Her huge version of *War and Peace* remains the standard English text of Tolstoy, still in print after 40 years.

The early history of Penguin, like the early history of the BBC, is a catalogue of high aspirations and shameless opportunism. The Penguin Classics, among the most successful and distinguished contributions to the Penguin marque, began as the brainchild of one man, E.V. Rieu, a classical scholar who had become stuck in rut of educational publishing. To wile away his evenings, he would translate aloud to his wife, Nelly, who persuaded him to go one better and work up a new translation of the *Odyssey*. The project took eight years. When he offered it to Allen Lane, founder of the Penguin imprint in 1938, Lane, against the advice of his editors, jumped at it and gave Rieu the job of editor of a series of classics in translation. *The Odyssey* came out as no 1 of the Penguin Classics in 1946 and by the time of Rieu's retirement in 1964 some 150 titles were published or in commission, and the classics were selling nearly a million copies a year.

Rieu was down-to-earth, a good editor with a fine ear. "Write English," he said by way of advice. "Read it aloud." The lasting success of his own translations of Homer (*The Iliad* followed in 1950), not to mention *The Four Gospels* (1952), testifies to his strength as a purveyor of plain English. Not many translations wear for more than a generation, but the early Penguin Classics, from the Greek tragedians to *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, Cervantes to Flaubert, still living research and the compilation of a complete dictionary. In this she worked closely with Archimandrite Sophrony who had founded the community. (He must have been one of the last alive to have met Rasputin. "That is Rasputin – he is not one of us," said the abbot of the monastery, where Sophrony was studying icons.)



Portrait drawing of Leo Tolstoy by Feliks Topolski for the Folio Society edition of Edmonds's translation of *War and Peace*, 1971. It first appeared in 1957

Tolstoy was a pantheist, not a Christian, a moralist, not a mystic. His "private tragedy", she adds, was that having got to the gates of the Optinsky monastery, in his final flight, he could do no further, and died.

It was in Paris, after the Liberation, that Edmonds met Archimandrite Sophrony, who sowed her interest in Russian Orthodox spirituality. Sophrony had, as Sergei Zacharov, been an artist in Paris after the First World War before receiving his vocation and moving to Mount Athos. He became the disciple of Father Silouan (Silouan) at the Russian monastery of Pantaleimon and then, in 1938, after Silouan's death, a hermit. He was ordained during the Second World War, returned briefly to Mount Athos and then tried to set up a community in Paris. When that failed, he moved, partly through the agency of Rosemary Edmonds, to Essex, where in 1959 he started a monastery at Tolleshurst Knights, near Maldon. Sophrony had published a book, in Russian, about his mentor Father Silouan. Edmonds translated this in 1958 as *The Undistorted Image*, which transmogrified into *The Monk of Mount Athos: Staretz Silouan, 1856-1938* (1973) and *Wisdom from Mount Athos* (1974). She did much other work for Sophrony and also translated his 1977 book *His Life is Mine*. The Archimandrite died five years ago, aged 96. His monastery at Tolleshurst Knights continues.

James Ferguson  
Rosemary Edmonds lived a life that touched the events of this century at many points, writes Michael Edmonds

Michael Edmonds

THE FRIDAY REVIEW  
The Independent 14 August 1998

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## Benny Waters

FEW PEOPLE are fortunate enough to have the description "world's most modern saxophone player over 90" applied to them. When the French Ministry of Culture awarded Benny Waters the title Chevalier in 1995, that's how they described him. Only Benny Carter, who came up on the rails when he hit 90 in August last year, usurped him.

Waters was never a great player and certainly had none of Carter's inventive genius, but he was good and he had the gumption to be in the right place at an exceedingly large number of right times. He was the last person on earth to record with Joe "King" Oliver, the cornet player who was the major influence on the young Louis Armstrong; Oliver's last recording was in 1931. Waters also taught both Johnny Hodges and Harry Carney, two of the finest saxophonists in jazz, long before they became the stars of the Duke Ellington Orchestra. And he was in the band at the Apollo Theatre in New York when Ella Fitzgerald sang for the first time.

He began his commercial career at 14, working in his brother's band, on the diminutive E flat clarinet. By 1920 he had moved to Boston where he played in a band with Johnny Hodges, of whom he said, "I would class Hodges as a natural, like Louis Armstrong or Sidney Bechet." Waters stayed in Boston for four or five years. "I had about 55 pupils in Boston. I was doing radio work three times a week and getting paid for it, one of the first negroes to do commercial radio. I had Harry Carney as a pupil for a long time."

In 1922 he left Boston and his pupils, to join the star-studded Charlie Johnson Band that was playing in Atlantic City. "I was with Johnson from 1925 to 1932. I was there when all the boys were coming in – Sidney De Paris, Jimmy Harrison and of course Benny Carter." During the Thirties Waters played in the seminal band led by Fletcher Henderson and for three years with bands led by the trumpeter Hot Lips Page. He worked for the Claude Hopkins Orchestra for another three years before joining Jimmy Lunceford in 1941. Then he formed his own band and played with it in New York for three years.

Waters went to California to visit his wife who was working there in an army entertainment unit, and didn't return. Instead he formed another band and worked in the naval base at San Diego for three years.

Then he joined Roy Milton's blues band and stayed until 1950. Visiting old friends from the Charlie Johnson band at Jimmy Ryan's illustrious New York



A player in the right place at a large number of right times: Waters in 1987

Redfern

he found that Bob Wilber, the band leader, was due to go into the army. His job was offered to Waters and again he stayed for the apparently mandatory three years. The band included a mix of young and veteran players, amongst them the trumpeter Henry Goodwin, the pianist Dick Wellstood, the trombonist Jimmy Archey, the bassist Pops Foster and the drummer Tommy Edwards.

The band toured Europe in 1952 and Waters met an old friend, the trumpeter Bill Coleman, in Zurich. He immediately joined Coleman's band. The band toured Switzerland, Germany and France, breaking up in Paris the inevitable three years later.

Waters settled there, lionised by French jazz fans. He featured in a documentary film *Premier Festival Européen de Jazz* (1964) with Coleman, Mezz Mezzrow, Humphrey Lyttelton and Beryl Bryden. He worked in the club La Cigale throughout the Sixties and toured Europe relentlessly throughout the Seventies and Eighties. He also made short visits to play in New York during this time. His autobiography, *The Key to a Jazz Life*, was published in 1985. Waters stayed in France until 1992 when he returned to the United States.

He continued to work and tour with a band called the Statesmen of Jazz that included the 90-year-old violinist Claude Williams and jazz stars less well-

stricken in years in Clark Terry, Buddy Tate, Al Grey, Milt Hinton and Panama Francis. Waters appeared on national television three times and played at two New York jazz clubs during 1997. He also made a 10-week tour of Paris and Germany and in September, with the Statesmen of Jazz, made his first tour of Japan. He celebrated his 96th birthday earlier this year at the beginning of a three-night booking at the Jazz Standard club in New York.

Steve Voce

Benjamin Waters, saxophonist: born Brighton, Maryland 23 January 1902; married; died Columbia, Maryland 11 August 1998.



London in the war: not devastated

and that women, children, old people, shop assistants and bank clerks were generally incapable of sustained courage.

In many ways, civilians had an advantage over soldiers in coping with bombs. If they felt afraid, they could seek safety in shelters or in the countryside without being condemned as shirkers or shot as deserters. Those who stayed in London, like those who left, did so of their own free choice. The chances of death or injury were not very high. The vastness of London, which pre-war experts had

believed would intensify the effects of air raids, in fact ameliorated them. Raids and casualties were scattered over a very wide area, and although the cumulative destruction in London was great, Londoners never felt as those in heavily bombed provincial cities might have felt that they were living in a devastated or defeated city.

Mass Observation records show that Londoners were strengthened by a sense of individual value, common purpose and historic destiny. The myth, the pre-written story, was a tale of mass hysteria and headlong flight. Londoners had been told that this is what they would do often enough in the 1930s, but for their own reasons they behaved altogether differently, and the story had to be changed in recognition of this surprising fact. It is not time yet to change it back.

Stephen Inwood is the author of *A History of London*, to be published on 1 September (Macmillan, £30)

### HISTORICAL NOTES

STEPHEN INWOOD

## Propaganda and the London Blitz

IT IS the job of historians to re-examine traditional assumptions about the past, and to test them (sometimes to destruction) by means of rigorous modern scholarship. Sometimes, however, this process creates a new orthodoxy which is less truthful than the one it displaces.

Take the story of Londoners' reaction to the Blitz of 1940-41. The traditional view was that Londoners faced unprecedented danger with remarkable courage and composure. The new view, loosely based on Angus Calder's *The Myth of the Blitz* (1991), seems to be that the story of London's courage was scripted, filmed and virtually invented by wartime

propagandists for domestic and American consumption, and that post-war

generations have mistaken a propaganda myth for historical truth. If Londoners behaved courageously, Calder's dust jacket claimed, this was because "people performed, by and large, as their own 'myth' told them they should".

It is worth repeating that some stories, even those upon which patriotic "myths" are based, are true. The attitudes and behaviour of Londoners during the Blitz were recorded, reported and analysed in unprecedented and honest detail by Mass Observation and the Home Intelligence division of the Ministry of Information. Secret and well-researched reports, produced daily from 18 May 1940 and weekly from 30 September, presented an unequivocal picture of steadiness and pragmatism in the period of heaviest raids, at a time when the Government was the alert for signs of hysteria, and expecting a breakdown in civilian morale. After a brief panic, an oddly histrionic attitude to danger developed. Risks and privations which once would have seemed intolerable were soon being treated with the irritation or glum resignation induced in normal times by a cancelled train.

In retrospect, the resilience of Londoners in 1940-41 was not unbelievable, and it was certainly not unique. The citizens of Berlin, Hamburg, Tokyo, and even Nagasaki showed similar endurance in the face of much greater devastation later in the war. Londoners were simply the first to demonstrate the error of the pre-war belief that only soldiers (and only men) could accustom themselves to danger and death,

times by a cancelled train.

Mass Observation records show that Londoners were strengthened by a sense of individual value, common purpose and historic destiny. The myth, the pre-written story, was a tale of mass hysteria and headlong flight. Londoners had been told that this is what they would do often enough in the 1930s, but for their own reasons they behaved altogether differently, and the story had to be changed in recognition of this surprising fact. It is not time yet to change it back.

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## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### BIRTHS

SYNGE: On 17 July, at home, to Sue and John, a son, Alexander Elliott William, a brother for Robbie and Frances.

van't HOF: To William and Angela, a daughter, Sophie Alexandra, on 5 August.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Marion Carlisle, "Chests (ii): di Clone, The Resurrection and The Three Maries at the Sepulchre", 1pm. Victoria and Albert Museum: Frances Rankine, "A Collector's View: the Chancy Hare Townshend Bequest of 19th-century pictures", 2pm. Tate Gallery: Eric Shanes, "David Smith, the Greatest Post-war Sculptor?", 1pm.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS (Births, Adoptions, Marriages, Deaths, Memorial services, Wedding and anniversaries, In memoriam) are charged at £8.50 a line, VAT extra. OTHER Gazette announcements (notices, functions, forthcoming marriages, Marriages) which must be submitted in writing are charged at £10 a line, VAT extra. Always include a daytime telephone number.

The Independent's main switchboard number is 0171-293 2000.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Miss Sarah Brightman, soprano, 37; Mr Ronald Campbell MBE, 53; Mr David Crosby, singer, 57; Mrs Jennifer d'Abu, president, Moyes Stevens Investments, 53; Vice-Admiral John Dunt, Chief of Fleet Support, 54; Mr Buddy Greco, jazz pianist and singer, 72; Mr David Hopkinson, former chairman, Harrison and Crossfield, 72; Dom Anthony Philip Jebb, former Headmaster, Downside School, 66; Professor Sir Andrew Kay, surgeon, 82; Sir Stuart McKimm, High Court judge, 60; Sir Robin McLaren, former ambassador to China, 64; Mr Steve Martin, actor and comedian, 53; Lord Mishcon, solicitor, 83; Dr Oliver Neville, consultant to the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, 69; Mr Frederic Raphael, novelist, 67; Mr Tony Scanlon, actor, 53; Sir Ronald Stewart, former chairman, London Brick Co, 95; The Right Rev Hewlett Thompson, Bishop of Exeter, 69; Lord Whaddon, former MP, chairman, Cambridge Chemical Co, 71; Mr Sydney Wooderson, athlete, 84.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Fra Paolo Sarpi (Paulus Venetus), scholar and philosopher, 1552; Dr Florence Estienne Meric Casaubon, classical scholar, 1599; Claude-Joseph Vernet, painter, 1714; Dr Charles Hutton, mathematician, 1737; Friedrich Ludwig Duhn, dentist and composer, 1769; Letitia Elizabeth Landon, writer, 1802; Samuel Sebastian Wesley, composer, 1810; Sir Walter Besant, novelist and philanthropist, 1836; Baron Richard von Kraft-Ebing, physician, 1840; Briton Rivière, artist, 1840; Henry Duff Trail, writer, 1842; Bion Arnold, electrical engineer, 1861; John Galsworthy, novelist and playwright, 1867.

Deaths: Augustus Montague Toplady, hymn-writer and author of "Rock of Ages", 1778; John William Fletcher, evangelist, 1785; Thomas Sheridan, actor, biographer and lexicographer, 1788; George Colman the elder, playwright, 1794; Luigi Cagnola, architect, 1833; Johann Friedrich Herbart, philosopher, 1841; The Rev Henry Francis Cary, translator of Dante, 1844; William Buckland, Dean of Westminster and geologist, 1856; George Combe, phrenologist, 1858; Admiral David (James) Glasgow Farquhar, first Viscount Northcliffe, newspaper proprietor, 1922; Sir Landon Ronald, composer and pianist, 1938; William Randolph Hearst, newspaper proprietor, 1951; Bertolt Brecht, writer, 1956; Henri-Edouard-François Breuil, priest and archaeologist, 1961; Clifford Odets, playwright, 1963; Leonard Sidney Woolf, publisher, 1969; Juliet Romaine (Louis Farigoule), novelist, playwright and poet, 1972; Oscar Levant, composer and pianist, 1972; John Boynton Priestley, novelist and playwright, 1984.

On this day: the Portuguese defeated the Castilians at the Battle of Aljubarrota, 1385; the French repulsed William of Orange at the Battle of Mons, 1678; Tristan de Cunha was annexed to Great Britain, 1816; Cologne Cathedral, started in 1248, was completed, 1880; Cetewayo, the Zulu chief, was received by Queen Victoria at Osborne, 1882; the landing of 2,000 US Marines helped to capture Peking, thus ending the Boxer uprising, 1900; the steamer *Islander*, carrying £3m in gold, struck an iceberg off Alaska and sank, with the loss of 70 lives, 1901; the British transport *Royal Edward* was sunk by a Ger-

man U-boat in the Aegean, with the loss of 1,000 lives, 1915; the Little Entente between Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia was formed, 1920; the VIIIth Olympic Games opened in Antwerp, 1920; the BBC showed its first feature film on television, *The Student of Prague*, with Anton Walbrook, 1938; the Atlantic Charter was enunciated by Churchill and Roosevelt, 1941; Japan surrendered to the Allies unconditionally, 1945; following rioting, British troops were moved to Northern Ireland to restore order, 1969; after peace talks in Cyprus broke down, Turkish troops launched an attack on Nicosia, 1974.

Today is the Feast Day of St Athanasius of Aegina, St Eusebius of Rome, St Fachanus, St Marcellus of Apamea, St Maximilian Kolbe.

#### RECEPTIONS

British Safety Council Sir Neville Purvis, Director General of the British Safety Council, was the host at a reception held yesterday at the Armourers' Hall, London EC2, for the International Diploma in Health and Safety Management System Award winners. Mr Alan Smith, Chairman of the Nigerian High Commission, and Mr Almuslemi Tala, of the Saudi Arabian Embassy, presented the awards. Mr Alan Smith, Chairman of the Board of Governors, British Safety Council, and Mr Tim Hooper, Deputy Chairman of the Board of Governors, also attended.

#### APPOINTMENTS

Miss Wilhelmina Fiona Shanks, to be a district judge, on the South Eastern Circuit. Mrs Dorothy Joan Drew, to be Regional Immigration

#### ADJUDICATOR FOR HATTON CROSS INSTITUTION OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

The following have been elected fellows of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers:

Mr P. Atherton, Horsham; Professor G. Bergles, Greece; Mr Chan Po Keung, Hong Kong; Mr D. Collier, Bishopsgate; Mr S.R. Dardeau, Paris; Mr Dr A.R. Dickey, Canada; Mr D. Doherty, D.C.; Mr D. Dwyer, Mr D. Eddy, Chelmsford; Mr C.P. Edwards, Finsbury; Mr D.C. Edwards, Finsbury; Mr S.C. Gordis, Chelmsford; Mr S.W. Harding, London; Mr D. Holland, Newbury; Mr C.D. Horman, Cheshire; Mr G.J. Kalaghaj, Chester; Professor A.J. Keenan, Rotherham; Mr K. Kew, Chelmsford; Mr M. K. Law, London; Mr A.J. Morris, Manchester; Mr J.W. Murray, Cheshire; Mr J.A. Napier, Chelmsford; Mr D.S. Dohle, Winchester; Mr M.L. Ower, Newry; Mr V. Rama, India; Dr A.C. Rolfe, Abingdon; Mr S.M. Ross, London; Mr S. S. Sivaprasadarao, D.P. Stevens, Bristol; Mr Ian Hooper, Malaysia; Lt-Col K.W. Thorpe, Hong Kong; Mr K.L.C. Wong, Surveyor, Esso Eng. & Petrol. Co., Surve; Mr Ian Hooper, Hong Kong; Mr Wang Min Keung, Hong Kong.

Dr H. Tong, Kowloon, Hong Kong; Mr K.L.C. Wong, Surveyor, Esso Eng. & Petrol. Co., Surve; Mr Wang Min Keung, Hong Kong.

#### UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

The following have been appointed to fellowship of Nuffield College, Oxford: Official Fellowships: Professor Alec Stone Sweet, Department of Politics and Society, University of California, Irvine. Visiting Fellowships: Dr David Potter, University of Princeton; Dr Lucy White, Nuffield College. Post-Research Fellowships: Ms Lucy White, Nuffield College; Mr David Myatt, Nuffield College.

#### SYNAGOGUE SERVICES

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following: Sabbath begins in London at 8.11pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-343 3959; Federation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263; Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-289 6620; Synagogue of Great Britain: 0181-348 4731; Spanish and Portuguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2572; New London Synagogue (Masorti): 0171-289 1550.

## Freedom that tips the scales of justice

### THE INDEPENDENT ARCHIVE

14 AUGUST 1987

The Law Lords have approved by 3-2 the ban on coverage of Peter Wright's book 'Spycatcher'. A former Master of the Rolls dissents

anding exercise, of which he said.

I detect no error in his approach and I would be content to decide this case on the simple ground that the conclusion at which he arrived was a proper exercise of the discretion with which he as the judge of first instance was invested and one with which an appellate court ought not to interfere.

Both Lord Bridge and Lord Oliver pointed out the danger which the majority decision involved. Lord Bridge said, "Freedom of speech is always the first casualty under a totalitarian regime... This is a significant step down that very dangerous road." Lord Oliver added that it involved the first step along a very perilous path.

Lord Bridge concluded his judgment, saying emphatically of the majority: "I remain in profound disagreement with you." So will many others who read the judgment. I would add this thought. If the Attorney-General prosecutes any of the newspapers for contempt, what is a judge of first instance to do? Is he to accept the majority judgment as correct and impose a heavy penalty, or is he to say:

"There is so much difference of opinion on the matter that I will treat you leniently?"

This is my concluding point. The Lords ought not to have reversed the Vice-Chancellor, who refused an injunction, unless they had been unanimous. Change the constitution by one and the result might well have been different. No injunction should be granted in the face of such powerful dissent.

Lord Denning

From the Home News pages of 'The Independent', Friday 14 August 1987

### WORDS

WILLIAM HARTSTON  
tokoloshe, n.

tells us, a mischievous and

lascivious hairy dwarf of

African mythology. More

detached sources mention

# Stalin's little prisoner

What was a British schoolgirl doing in Soviet Moscow, and why was she sent to a labour camp? By John Morrish

When Rosa Thornton tells her grandchildren about her younger days, they must find it difficult to believe their ears. Few British children went to school in Moscow alongside the offspring of Mao, Tito and the international revolutionary élite. Fewer still found themselves shipped off to Kazakhstan at the age of 16 to shovel copper ore for 14 hours a day, seven days a week.

More incredible, though, in today's post-ideological, soft-hearted Britain, is how Rosa came to be in Moscow in the first place - and how she came to be left there.

Rosa Rust was born in 1925, the daughter of William Rust, a devoted British Communist, and his wife, Kathleen. She was named, of course, after the German communist revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg.

Rosa took her first steps across the table in a prison visiting-room, where Bill Rust was one of 12 prominent British Communists held for sedition at the time of the General Strike. He was, her mother told her, more interested in news of the class struggle than in Rosa's battle with gravity.

In 1928, Rust was summoned to Moscow to work for Comintern, the Communist International, and took with him his wife and three-year-old daughter. There became a popular figure, not least for his propensity to denounce his backsliding British comrades.

"He had a lot of admirers," says Rosa, who still speaks with a pronounced Russian accent. "My mother was just his wife." The marriage was doomed, and with her mother also swept up in the expatriate revolutionary scene, Rosa was left to her own devices. She had spoken Russian from the beginning, having learned it during a fortnight in a Moscow isolation hospital.

Soon, she was wandering the streets, or trailing the city's gypsies. This was not acceptable behaviour for a child of the ruling élite. In 1930, Rust was sent back to London to edit the new *Daily Worker*. Before he left, he secured her a place in what she calls "a specialised children's home for foreigners".

The Politburo had decided to establish the special boarding school in Ivanovka Niskienz, a textile town outside Moscow, for the children of "fighters against Fascism" and Communist revolutionaries, many of whom were living hazardous underground lives in their own countries. Among them, Rosa remembers particularly Tito's son, Jakov. "He was a horrible boy," she says.

*Rosa remembers particularly Tito's son, Jakov. 'He was a horrible boy,' she recalls. 'I hated him.'*

Bill Rust, meanwhile, had been faithfully praising Soviet society, apparently unaware of his daughter's sufferings. He had also remarried. According to Mark Burman, a radio producer who has come to know Rosa well through making a documentary about her, Rust had never told anyone in London about Rosa's existence. "I don't think he was properly divorced and the Communist Party was all very proper at that time," he says. There was no happy reunion.

Burman's documentary ends with father and mother coming to meet Rosa at King's Cross station, and failing to recognise her. After that, says Rosa, she met her father occasionally, but they did not speak of serious things, particularly not her experiences in the Soviet Union. The story of her time there, says Burman, "conflicted with everything believed in".

Instead, she lived with her mother, learned English at Regent's Street Polytechnic, and was taught to tap-dance by her newly-found cousins. Later, she got a job as a telephone operator and receptionist with *Soviet Weekly*, translating instructions from the Russian embassy to her British editor. Then she worked for Tass, the Soviet news agency, translating and typing out news reports from Moscow Radio, until it was closed down by the Foreign Office as the Cold War began in earnest.

In 1949 she had married George Thornton, a student of Polish. Her

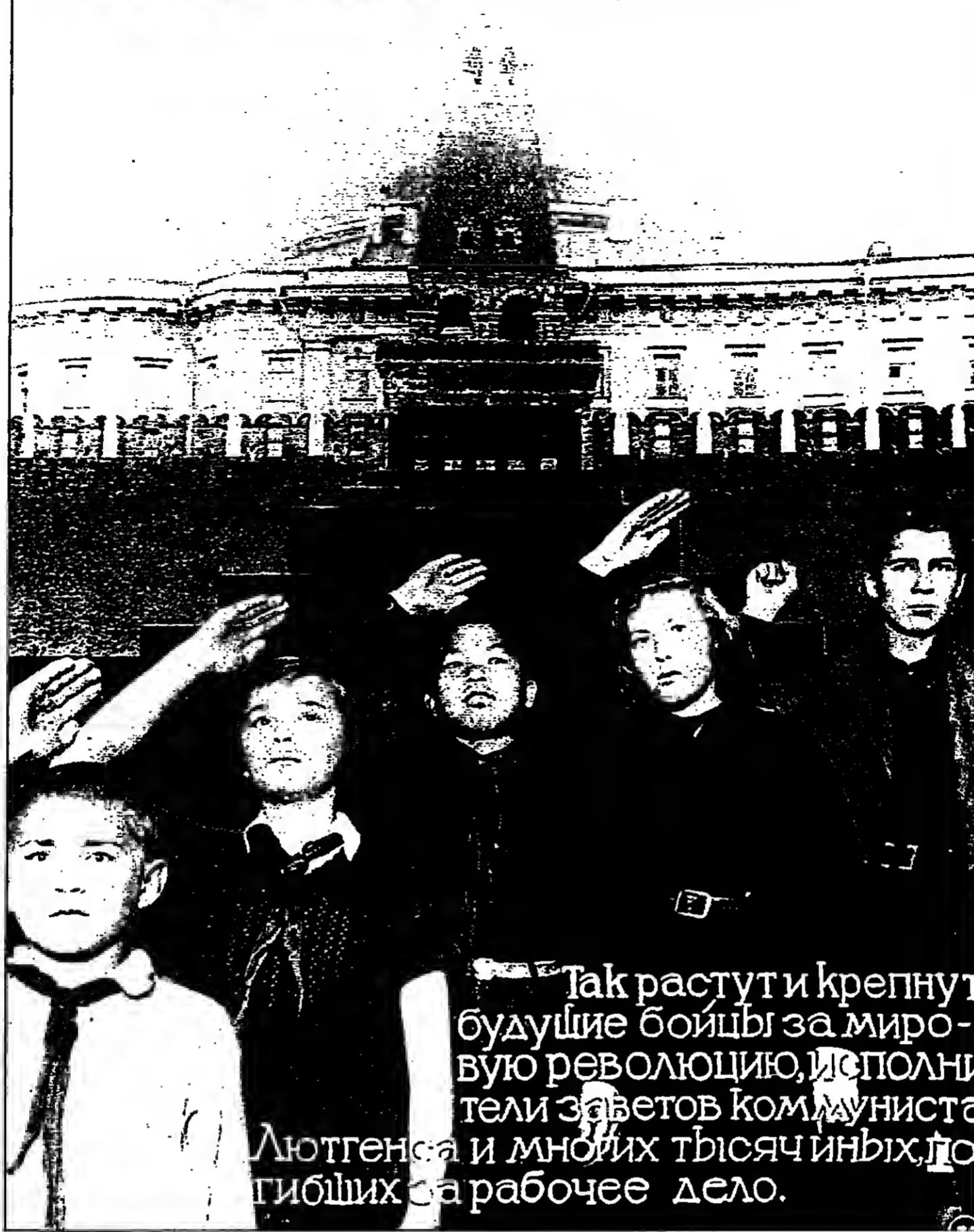
father had died the year before, so she was given away by Harry Pollitt, the leader of Britain's Communists during the Second World War. The singer Paul Robeson appears in the wedding photographs. Such people were her only family. She says now that all her life she has shunned "three things: politics, religion and nationalism".

Today Rosa is 73. Next year, she and George celebrate their golden wedding. They enjoy classical music and pottering around, sometimes with their four children and five grandchildren. With a background such as hers, her most revolutionary act may well have been to live an ordinary life.

"It always appealed to people that it was exciting and exotic," she says, of her early years. "It wasn't exciting and exotic at all. It was a question of survival. I am all for the peaceful life."

Rosa Rust is broadcast on BBC Radio 4 on Saturday at 2.30pm

## Есть на свете МОСКОВА!



Above, pupils at Stalin's school for children of distinguished foreigners in Moscow. Below, Rosa Thornton today

A slice of the action

Continued from page 1  
HE WASN'T the first innocent bystander to get caught up in the killing, and he won't be the last.

Last January Davinia Brown was out celebrating her 16th birthday with some school friends. At a city-centre cafe they ran into a couple of lads who invited them to a party. When they arrived by minicab at Laindon Road in Longsight, a lone youth stepped from the shadows and opened fire with an automatic machine-pistol.

He wasn't strong enough to handle his sophisticated weapon and the shots were scattered wildly off target. More than 20 rounds peppered the cab and the gable end of a nearby house. Davinia was hit in the head. Despite taking a bullet in his leg, the taxi driver was able to drive her at high speed to a local hospital. After extensive brain surgery, against all the odds she survived.

Although Longsight is not geographically far removed from the old gang turf, it was until recently a relatively trouble-free area. That was until Urville Bell, a 18-year-old Longsight boy, was shot dead in his sports car during a robbery. The fits-and-fits drive-by and ambushes during the last two years have claimed the lives of several and wounded too many to record. The designer weapon of choice is the 1,000-round-a-minute Ingram Mac10, a close-quarters machine-pistol made for special forces. Residents live in fear of their lives. They cannot drive too fast or too slow or wear their hoods up in the rain, lest nervous trigger-happy neighbourhood boys mistake them for the enemy.

Longsight has been split right down the middle, along traditional Moss Side gang lines. Old Trafford and Whalley Range have long been similarly split. Stretford is going the same way. Meanwhile, gangs from Salford have stretched out into Wythenshawe, where the number of violent incidents involving firearms has leapt up.

Manchester reportedly has more routine armed police patrols per capita than anywhere else in Britain, bar - obviously - Ulster. But morale is not good. A Home Office report last year noted that the force had the third-highest rate of retirement for reasons of ill health. At one time it was 115 officers below strength, because of illness and absentmindedness.

After years of watching their peers getting away with murder the new breed of gangsters, like Malcolm, know that the only way to get respect is to pull a gun at the drop of a hat. Whereas in the past warnings were issued and beatings doled out, today they shoot only to kill. Increasingly they're armed at all times. The new breed are fearless.

In May a teenager was visiting two fellow gang members who were on remand at Strangeways for attempted murder. At lunch time, and in full view of very obvious security cameras, members of a rival faction confronted him. Armed with knives and screwdrivers, they chased him back into the visitors' centre. The teenager took refuge with prison officers. Days later the youth was leaving a police station under police guard when rivals ambushed him. Two masked men fired shots. Officers dived for cover and a stray bullet smashed a window, narrowly missing a detective.

No matter how much gang politics and street fashions change, one thing remains omnipresent: the culture of silence and intimidation. Despite employing ever more sophisticated ballistic techniques, police face an uphill battle to put gangsters away. Even if Louis Makin's attackers are caught, it'll be a courageous person who points the finger and identifies them.



BBC

## NEW YORK CONFIDENTIAL

# Sorry, but Britannia is not so cool in New York

ON SEPTEMBER 8, Tony Blair is to attend a party in New York to celebrate the "British Invasion Part II". According to the invitation, "The party will celebrate Cool Britannia and the major influence London is having on the world of fashion, art and music." Among other highlights, the party will include "a re-creation of the famous Mc Bar".

Has Blair completely lost his mind? His attempts to associate himself with Cool Britannia have already made him look like an eager young vicar getting down to the disco. The prospect of his dancing the night away in an imitation of the Mc Bar in New York will surely have William Hague rubbing his hands with glee.

More important, doesn't Blair realise that the whole Cool Britannia phenomenon is now completely passe? I helped *Vanity Fair* put together a special issue on Cool Britannia in November 1996. By the time that issue came out in March 1997, people were already tiring of the subject.

These days it brings most people in hives. What's Blair going to be celebrating next - rave culture?

The party is being organised by Liz Tilberis, the editor of *Harper's Bazaar*, and Trudie Styler, whose claim to fame, apart from being Sting's wife, is that she often makes the "worst dressed" list. The guest list includes the usual suspects - Alexander McQueen, Stella McCartney, Philip Treacy and a bunch of liggers wearing Union Jack T-shirts.

ONE WAY in which American couples celebrate their wedding anniversaries is to hold ceremonies at which they renew their marriage vows. A New York couple has come up with an interesting variation on this theme. To celebrate their 15th anniversary, Alfred Shuman, the managing director of Bear Stearns & Company, and his wife Stephanie, organised a ceremonial burning of their pre-nuptial agreement.

According to *The New York Observer*, they invited 140 friends to gather round a fire in the garden of their East Hampton country house and then threw the legal document into the flames.

Typically, several of the lawyers present pointed out that a pre-nuptial agreement is still binding, even if it has been lost or destroyed. The Shumans' gesture may have been touching, but, in the event of their marriage hitting the rocks, it will turn out to have been meaningless.

I'VE BEEN spending the past week crashing and burning with a succession of beautiful girls in New York's hottest singles bars. For the purposes of researching an article for a new American men's magazine called *Gear*, I've been trying out various chat-up lines from a book called *How To Pick Up Girls*, by Eric Weber. The book was written in 1970 and was out of date even then.

For instance, one of the recommended lines is, "You're the second prettiest girl in the world." "Naturally," writes Weber, "she'll want to know who the prettiest is." I tried this out on a girl in a bar called Clementine on Fifth Avenue and she said, "Thank you," and almost ran to the other side of the room. So far, I've struck out on every single occasion.

The point of my article is to try

to discover whether having hair makes any difference to a man's ability to pick up women. As you can see from my photo, I'm a William Hague lookalike.

Over the next few days I'm going back to the same bars, where I'll be using the same lines on some more girls, only this time I'll be wearing a wig. It's a huge great mop of blond hair, making me look like Staggy from *Scooby Doo*. But I don't suppose I'll have any more luck, because the lines I'm using are so awful.

EVEN THOUGH it's August, a number of magazines are holding parties at various New York clubs. The other day, *Manhattan File* magazine held a relaunch party at a bar called Lot 61, and I was lucky enough to be invited. One of the big shots there was James Truman, a former *Fuse* journalist, now the editorial director of *Condé Nast*. In the New York media, how this seemingly nice man

about the late socialist Jerry Zipkin. About five years ago he was in a booth at a fashionable restaurant talking about the famous homosexual walker, who was seated nearby, when his companion warned him that Zipkin was a notorious lip-reader.

My colleague was worried that Truman, too, might have mastered this black art.



TOBY YOUNG  
Has Blair completely lost his mind? What's he going to be celebrating next - rave culture?

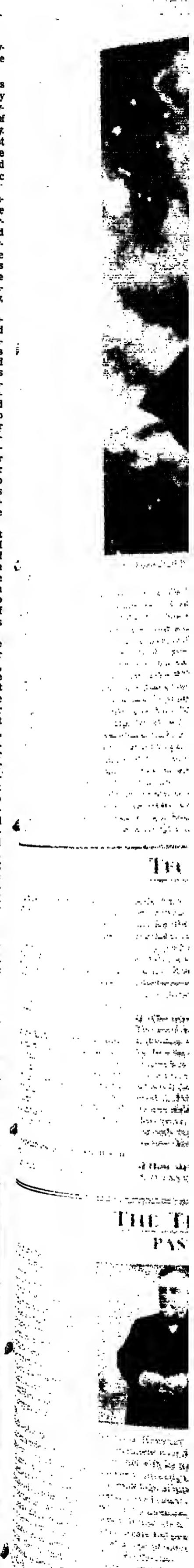


Tony Blair: an eager young vicar trying to impress

has survived in the company known as *Condescending and Nasty* is a topic of perennial interest.

At one point I approached a fellow hack at the bar and struck up a conversation about Truman. Instead of responding, he glanced nervously over my shoulder. Apparently, the hack had his fingers burnt once before when gossiping

fitness



A slice of the action

# Witness to the early universe

The Hubble Space Telescope is to be superseded by something even more powerful. By Alexander Hellemans

WHEN GALILEO directed his small telescope towards the sky in 1610, his observations changed our view of the universe for ever. Today anyone with good binoculars can see what Galileo saw: Venus displays phases just like the Moon, and the stars remain like points of light rather than the discs of the planets. The stars, to appear as points, had to be much farther away than the planets, showing that the universe was a far bigger place than anybody had believed before. Galileo showed that the Earth was not the centre of the universe, but rotates around the Sun.

Since Galileo, astronomy has leapt forward whenever a new and more powerful telescope has become available. One of the best examples was when the Hubble Space Telescope (HST) launched in April 1990. Astronomers obtained images showing that areas in the sky that had previously looked blank are in fact filled with thousands of distant, very faint galaxies.

Although astronomers plan to use the HST until the year 2010, the American National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa), and the European Space Agency (ESA) are already planning Hubble's successor, the Next Generation Space Telescope (NGST). Since it will be much more powerful, astronomers expect the instrument to open up a new window of discovery. "It will see the first significant burst of star formation in the universe," says Gerry Gilmore, an astronomer at Cambridge University who has vast experience of using the HST.

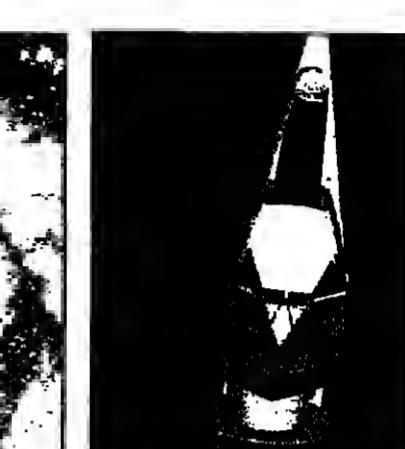
The present plan is to launch the NGST in 2007. Europe has committed itself to contributing \$200m towards the total price of about \$1bn. Although ESA's science programme is short of funds, its readiness to participate is largely based on the extremely good experience over the collaboration with the HST, whereby European astronomers are obtaining more than 20 per cent of total available observation time.

The HST still looks like a conventional telescope - a tube with an opening at one end and a parabolic mirror at the other end - but the design of the NGST will be radically different. It can dispense with the tube, because it will be placed in a point in space much darker than the relatively low orbit of the HST.

It will circle the Sun in an orbit about a million miles wider than that of the Earth, but it will do this at the



The Hubble Space Telescope facing into the centre of a spiral galaxy



central, 4-metre section and two folding sections to extend the central mirror to a diameter of 8 metres. It is in this respect that European industry will play an important role: "It is quite clear that in some areas, particularly in light-weight mirror technology and polishing, Europe is really playing a leading role," says Piero Benvenuti, an NGST project scientist at the European Space Agency. Benvenuti says that Nasa is already rewarding subcontracts for polishing test mirrors to a French company that has been contracted to build the four 8.2-metre mirrors of the largest telescope on Earth, now under construction in Chile by the European Southern Observatory (ESO). "Europe has the technological potential to participate at a very high level," says Benvenuti. And Peter Stockman, an NGST project scientist at the Space Telescope Science Institute in Baltimore, from where the NGST will be controlled, thinks it's possible that Europe may supply all the optics for the NGST: "European optics manufacturing is superb," he says.

Roger Davies, professor of astronomy at Durham University, who is a leading supporter of the next generation telescope, says the project has far-reaching implications for the study of the cosmos. "We expect to see the birth of stars and galaxies. We will witness the act of creating the very stuff we are made of. This telescope will see back in time to when the universe was just a tenth of the age it is today."

The NGST - "son of Hubble" - the most advanced telescope ever built, will be a sophisticated time machine for looking back at the violent birth of the universe.

## UPDATE

A RESEARCH satellite sent to investigate the Sun that got lost on the way may be salvaged after all, says the European Space Agency. The Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (Soho) had been out of contact with Earth since June, until it began responding to signals again last month. Now it has sent back temperature and electrical data. "At this point we are carefully optimistic," said Bernhard Fleck, Soho project scientist for Esa. Ground controllers are now checking to see which instruments have survived the weeks of freezing temperatures, floating 1.5 million km from Earth. It could be weeks before the team knows whether Soho will be usable again.

TWO FOSSILISED dinosaur eggs have been found in southern Bolivia, in a site that could turn out to be one of the biggest fossil fields in the world. The fossils are about 68 million years old and were found by the Swiss palaeontologist Christian Mayer. One egg is 40cm long and seems to be from a flying reptile, while the other is about 35cm long. The fossil field is covered in fossil footprints from dozens of species, some apparently from animals up to 350 metres long. If confirmed, it could signal the presence of a previously unknown dinosaur species. Among the tracks were also some from *Tyrannosaurus rex*.

PORTRAITS OF leading scientists from the 17th century to the 20th are to go on public display at the National Portrait Gallery in London. The Royal Society and the gallery have teamed up to produce a "self-guiding trail of discovery, which marries art and science". Among the 20 scientists whose portraits will go on display are Sir Christopher Wren, Sir Isaac Newton, Stephen Hawking and Dorothy Hodgkin, the crystallographer who deciphered the structure of molecules such as insulin and vitamin B12.

## TECHNOQUEST

**Q How do you make chewing gum?**  
Chewing gum used to be made from thickened resin and latex from certain kinds of trees, or from various kinds of sweet grasses, leaves, grains and waxes. In ancient Greece mastic gum was chewed, and obtained from the mastic tree. Now the big chewing gum manufacturers make chewing gum synthetically from styrene-butadiene rubber, which is made from a reaction of styrene and butadiene.

**Q What are the AHAs cosmetics companies now put in their moisturisers?**  
AHA stands for alpha hydroxy acid and is supposed to even out skin tone. However, it isn't one specific chemical. It is the general name for acids found in fruit or other foods. For example, glycolic acid (the acid in sour milk) and lactic acid (produced by tired muscles) are AHAs.

**Q Why do vegetables go soft when you cook them?**  
All plants are made up of millions of plant

cells. Each plant cell is surrounded by a very strong cell wall and adjacent cells are held together by a glue. When you eat a raw vegetable or an unripe piece of fruit, your teeth need to break the glued cells apart and this is what gives you that "crunchy" feeling. Ripening or cooking softens the glue between the cells so that your teeth just slide between the cells.

**Q Who invented dinosaur names?**  
The word dinosaur means "terrible lizard". Individual dinosaur species were named by the scientists who first found them, often in Greek or Latin. They named them after some unusual feature about the animal, where it came from, or even who discovered it. For example, *Baryonyx walkeri* means Walker's heavy claw, because of the discoverer; Bill Walker. *Velociraptor* means "speedy bunter" and *Tyrannosaurus rex* means "king of the reptiles".

**Q How strong is an ant?**  
Ants can carry up to 50 times their own

body weight on their back and their pinchers can grip something 1,400 times their weight.

**Q How is snake venom produced?**  
Venom is produced at the back of the snake's head (behind the eyes). Glands similar to those that produce saliva in humans make and store a cocktail of venoms, toxins and enzymes, which travel through ducts to either fangs or grooves in the teeth. The venoms work in different ways: they can paralyse prey (cobra venom affects the nervous system) or digest tissues and organs (this is how rattlesnakes' venom works) which helps them in their food intake.

You can visit the [technoquest World Wide Web site](http://www.sciencenet.org.uk) at <http://www.sciencenet.org.uk>

Questions and answers are provided by Science Line's Dial-a-Scientist on 0345 600444

## THE TRUTH ABOUT... PASTEURISATION



WE CAN thank Louis Pasteur (pictured) for inventing the idea of heating something in order to eliminate the harmful bacteria it may harbour. If there was a single moment in the career of the great 19th century microbiologist when he became convinced of the importance of heat treatment, it was when he decided to climb a glacier on Mont Blanc leading a mule carrying 20 glass flasks.

Each sealed flask contained a different "putrescible" liquid, such as blood, urine, wine or milk. He climbed to 15,000 feet and exposed each briefly to the mountain air, which he deduced would be relatively free of germs. Only one of the liquids subsequently went off - the one that had not previously been heated in its flask.

Pasteur had proven his germ theory of disease and the benefits of heating to get rid of microbes. Today, about 90 per cent of milk is pasteurised, or heated, to eradicate the possibility of its containing dangerous

government spokesman said. "However, the bacterium is the cause of Johne's disease, a disorder in cattle across the world, and is one of several factors that have been suggested as a possible cause of Crohn's disease, a chronic inflammation affecting the intestine in humans."

One of the most deadly micro-organisms that can live in milk is bovine tuberculosis, which killed thousands of children before pasteurisation became widespread in Britain following the 1922 Milk and Dairies Act. In the last century, milk used to be delivered in uncovered pails through dusty streets. It was not uncommon for people to test its freshness by dipping their fingers into the pail to see whether it was warm and therefore "straight from the cow".

Pasteurised milk was in fact introduced into the US in 1893, when the city of New York built its first pasteurisation plant, which was established by Nathan Strauss, an industrialist whose daughter had died of

bovine TB, and who became a passionate advocate of pasteurisation at the many meetings he attended on the subject in Britain.

There are essentially two ways of pasteurising milk. The first is to heat it in batches for 30 minutes at between 63.6°C and 65.6°C. The second is a continuous process known as high-temperature, short-time (HTST), where milk is passed over heat exchangers that can raise its temperature to 71.7°C for about 15 seconds.

Although heating can kill harmful bacteria, it also carries the disadvantage of destroying the colour, taste and nutritional value of the milk. So-called "sterilised milk" (it is not technically sterile), which is heated to about 115°C for 20 minutes, loses many of its vitamins. Ultra-heat-treated (UHT) milk is flash-heated to 135°C for a second and is about as nutritionally valuable as pasteurised milk, but despite this many people find it less palatable than pasteurised milk.

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*Grapevine*

# The poetry of wicker and willow

There is an art as well as a craft to basket-making, and an exhibition of Scottish artefacts proves the point. By Diona Gregory

**B**askets have long been the Cinderellas of the crafts world. Unlike pots, jewellery or textiles, they lack a high profile either in smart commercial galleries, or - more crucially - in the minds of most collectors; they are just not seen as "proper" works of art. Defined by traditional methods of construction and use, be they domestic or industrial, the simple woven basket struggles to move beyond historical associations and a distinctly utilitarian image.

"Making Weaves: the basket-maker's art", an exhibition of 14 dynamic contemporary Scottish basket-makers, should help change that. It is the inaugural show of the National Museums of Scotland's new Craft Gallery, which is being unveiled tomorrow. For juxtaposed with baskets for logs, shopping and the like are more mysterious woven objects that push at the boundaries of what many would term a basket.

With its start-up costs funded by the Scottish Arts Council National Lottery Funds, the Craft Gallery's remit is to exhibit and promote contemporary craft in Scotland. "What Making Weaves has done is give people the opportunity to work towards specific pieces for an exhibition which they would otherwise not make," says Valerie Morris, the gallery's curator. "There's work here which could be considered experimental: experimental for the makers but also experimental for the audience who are going to view the baskets."

Take Valerie Pragnell's "Red Earth Pod Series" in the main foyer, leading in to the gallery, which throws down the gauntlet and challenges us to reassess our perceptions of what baskets are. Earthed in sand, the three roughly woven, asymmetric pods are obviously baskets but serve no discernible function. The swollen willow structures, plastered externally with red soil from the Borders, are coated inside with a pale mulch of paper and flax straw. For me they evoke the harsh landscape and way of life of the Australian outback.

Her "Wild Apple Basket" and "Blackthorn Basket" are both lacquered internally with purple-black Japanese paper. Smaller than the "Pod Series" and more regularly woven, they exude modernity, yet remain tied to the earth - without being in any conventional sense "organic" or "green".

Unusually for someone working in willow, Pragnell describes herself as a sculptor. Most people insist on the term "basket-maker" - emphasising the process and materials used over sculpture's focus on form and content.

The traditions of the craft are



Main picture: 'Alder Pods', by Valerie Pragnell; below from left: 'Basket' by Sally McIntosh, 'Shell' by Anna A King, and 'Willow and Birch Ball' by Lizzie Farey



still attached. They are crazy interwoven, airy or densely, in non-geometric patterns. But their exuberant, energetic forms all grow from bases constructed in exactly the same way as those for everyday shopping baskets.

In contrast to Pragnell's and Farey's large forms, Anna King's baskets are small enough to nestle in your hand. She sees her baskets as containers for ideas and secrets, and uses traditional coiling techniques with natural materials to create fantastically frivolous containers. "Hidey Hole" is made of coiled sisal stitched with raw linen thread, and decorated with downy feathers the colour of oatmeal. From around its narrow neck wave ethereal strands of horsehair. On another basket, "Hidden", pine needles bristle stiffly to attention around the rim, obscuring what lies within.



Sally McIntosh's "Spiky Baskets" have no obvious function either. Made from coiled and stitched raffia, covered with spiky projections, they resemble overgrown yet fragile chestnut seed-cases, although

their muted heather tones suggest they may have beamed in from outer space.

There is nothing new in the idea of non-utilitarian baskets. For as long as baskets have been made, skilled workers have also made more refined, more highly decorated baskets for ceremonial purposes. What is new is that the making of a basket has become a search for individual expression, completely separate from the endless repetition and predictability that characterised traditional basket-makers.

Aply, Laurence Coupland's gleaming straw kishie is the only basket in the show not made this year, and the only purely traditional basket. Kishies, used by crofters for carrying peat, seaweed or shopping on their backs are a classic example of a traditional basket where function dictates form. Coupland has been



making them all his life, as part of the natural rhythm of his crofting life. It is probably the only basket on display where the maker knew exactly how it would look, and be used, before he started weaving. The kishie also typ-

ifies the power of a basket to summon up visions of a way of life unrelated even to the basket-makers.

Valerie Morris hopes that the exhibition will make people re-examine their perception of what a basket is.

"Modern basket-makers in Scotland are reacting to their own inspiration: their own need to express their own individuality, their passion for the material, their passion for the environment they are working in." This contemporary approach does not preclude the making of functional baskets, but it does require a shift in perspective from the viewer, not least in terms of value.

There are rarer baskets on display which are, at first glance, deeply traditional. Graham Glanville's fruit picker (made from green and Flanders red willow) and round log basket (in huff and green willow), and Trevor Leat's fitted oval shopper (Flanders red and white willow) and fitted wastepaper basket (black maul and white willow) are robust and functional. But the way they combine materials and weaves is anything but "traditional", creating baskets that demand to be categorised as objects of desire rather than as everyday containers.

Leat's and Glanville's respect for their materials is echoed in Lise Bech's zig-zag bowls and ball-shaped vessels - a vivid reminder of the many colours of natural willow. Her stylish baskets borrow shapes from the ceramics world, yet remain faithful to basketry traditions.

The exhibition also makes clear that Scottish basket-makers' admiration for the traditions of their craft still dominates their creative endeavours. Colour and materials are derived from hedgerows and the rural landscape. Unlike their contemporaries work south of the Border, there is little experimentation with applied colour or synthetic materials. However, in exploring their craft, like many British basket-makers, they create beautiful, captivating objects which, for want of a better word, are called baskets.

*Making Weaves* runs from 15 August to 4 January 1999 at the Royal Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, Mon, Wed-Sat 10am-5pm, Tues 10-8, Sun 12-5. Adults £3/£1.50, children free (details, 0131-247 4219). This is a selling exhibition; work can also be commissioned from individual makers via the museum. At the Edinburgh Festival, Artisan '98, with 153 arts and crafts makers and a series of free talks, runs 19-23 August at Cramond Hall, Morrison Street, Edinburgh (0131-225 2059). "Threads", an exhibition of 60 works by 14 contemporary US basket-makers is at the Concourse Gallery, Barbican Centre, 29 August-30 September, 10am-7.30pm.

## A whole new case of knives

**S**heffield's Millennium Canteen is a celebration of the best of British silver design. So dig in. By Margot Coatts

AN EXTRAORDINARY civic commission for modern silver cutlery - probably the largest ever - goes on show this week at Mappin & Webb in Regent Street, London. The company is not the manufacturer but the fortunate host of Sheffield City Council's Millennium Canteen, a roll-fronted cabinet containing the work of 37 leading silversmiths.

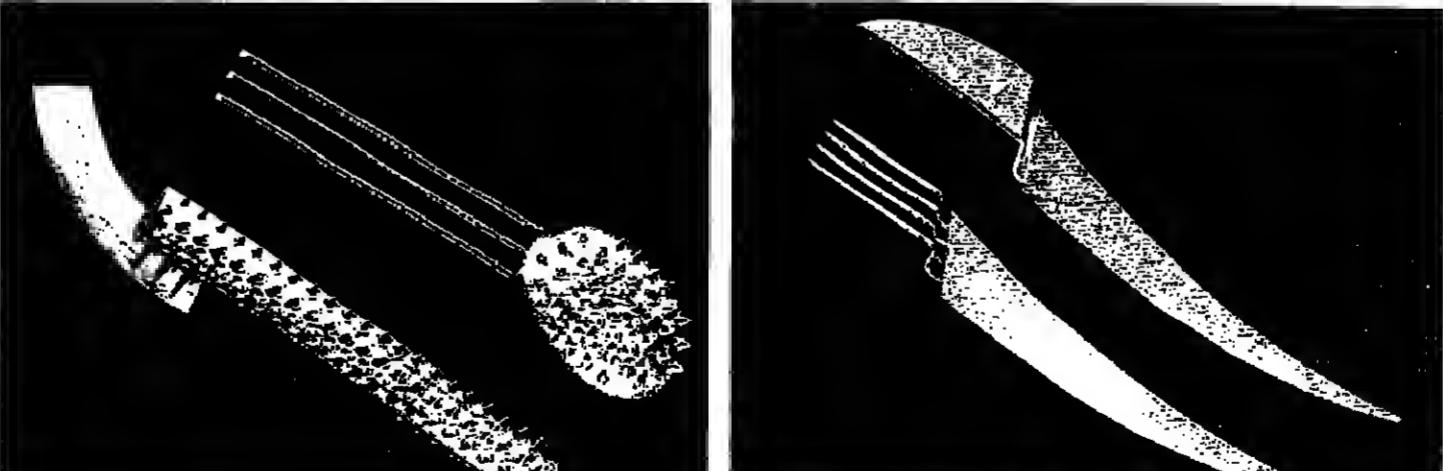
The brief to the silversmiths was open-ended. The only form of instruction came in picking from two hats the individual makers' names and items of cutlery and matching them together. After preliminary designs and models were reviewed at a meeting in July 1997, each maker received a flat fee of £1,000 and the silver they needed.

The results are spirited: some are advanced, some perilously hard to hold, some ergonomically efficient, some extrovert and others quietly personal in design. They reflect, too, changing international eating habits - the great demand for contemporary silver in the Middle and Far East, along with a world-wide increase in oriental cuisine, has led to the more flexible use of forks.

The Millennium Canteen was the brainchild of Sheffield's public arts officer, Paul Swales. It was co-ordinated by the Association of British Designer Silversmiths (ABDS), and supported by the National Lottery.



David Bromilow: Dinner Knife and Fork



Chris Knight: Salad Knife and Fork

through the Arts Council of England. Apart from being one of the best studio silver design opportunities around, it must be the only millennium project to have been completed two years in advance of the year it is to celebrate.

The idea first came to Swales when working on a studio project to house 60 artists and craftspeople in Sheffield, during which he met six ABDS silversmiths. Aware that Sheffield is the traditional area for silver and metal industries, and wishing to give a boost to the contemporary craft, they devised the idea of a canteen of mixed cutlery. It is dedicated to Robert the Cutler, mention of whom in 1297 is the first documented evidence of the silver industry in Sheffield.

The cost was a modest £50,000, "which paid for the silversmiths, the case, the catalogue and the Web page," says Swales. Expertise was contributed in kind by the city council; Howard Fenn, chairman of the ABDS, the Master Cutler from the Cutler's Company; the Sheffield Assay Master and Assay office; and Thessko, the bullion company that provided the silver.

The results are spirited: some are advanced, some perilously hard to hold, some ergonomically efficient, some extrovert and others quietly personal in design. They reflect, too, changing international eating habits - the great demand for contemporary silver in the Middle and Far East, along with a world-wide increase in oriental cuisine, has led to the more flexible use of forks.

The most successful pieces fall into two camps: cutlery "pairs" which offer a fresh view of knives and forks, and single utensils. Memorable pairs include the gestural curves of



Martyn Pugh: Fish Knife and Fork



Julie Chamberlain: Salad Knife and Fork

Then there are single items conceived to stand alone or act as icons of cutlery design in the year 2000. Adrian Hope, from Scotland, has made a carving knife whose embossed silver handle echoes the marbled pattern of its steel blade, hollow-ground and etched. Richard Fox may well have produced the perfect carving fork, with a "stiletto" hollow body made in a new silver alloy.

The most beautiful spoons come from the Islington workshop of Simone ten Hompel, who adds hunch-like handles to her endear-

ingly cupped, hand-raised bowls in matt silver. The antithesis is the super-reflective surface favoured by Jeffrey Sosier, from Gillingham, Kent; his work resembles cuttings from a rose bush. At Mappin & Webb, designs inspired by plants, shells and sea creatures have replaced the formal norms; all evidence that silversmithing is growing in some intriguing directions.

*The Millennium Canteen*, plus temporary hollow-ware by the same makers and by Mappin & Webb, will be at Leighton House, 12 Holland Park Road, London W14 (0171-602 3316) 2-14 November

## LINES ON DESIGNS



*In her novel, 'The God of Small Things' (Flamingo, £6.99), Arundhati Roy describes how Estha walks into her twin brother Rakesh's room in the family house in Ayemenem in India.*

"THE ROOM had kept his secrets. It gave nothing away. Not in the disarray of rumpled sheets, or the untidiness of a kick-off shoe, or a wet towel hung over the back of a chair. Or a half-read book. It was like a room in a hospital after the nurse had just been. The floors were clean, the walls white. The cupboard closed. Shoes arranged. The dustbin empty.

The obsessive cleanliness of the room was the only positive sign of volition from Estha. The only faint suggestion that he had, perhaps, some Design for Life. Just the whisper of an unwillingness to submit on scraps offered by others. On the wall by the window, an iron stood by an ironing board. A pile of folded, crumpled clothes waited to be ironed.

Silence hung in the air like a secret loss.

The terrible ghosts of impossible-to-forget toys clustered on the blades of the ceiling fan. A catapult. A Qantas koala (from Miss Mitten) with loosened button eyes. An inflatable goose (that had been burst with a policeman's cigarette)."

full

Buil

# In full sail under a glass sky

In the National Maritime Museum, a boat is becoming part of the building. By Nomie Niesewand

**A**ll that remains of a grand galleon of a 200-year-old French sailing ship that survived the Battle of Trafalgar is a sliver of the stern. Crash-landed inside the new glazed courtyard at the National Maritime Museum in Greenwich, HMS *Implacable*, as the Navy renamed the ship after it was captured, looks suspiciously like a bit of Liberty's half-timbered facade pasted on to the Victorian buildings that house the museum. The architect Rick Mather, with the Building Design Partnership, has made a quadrangle in its heart by building a fourth wall, the captain's bridge, and glazing over 11,250 square metres with the largest clear-spandled glass roof in Europe.

This vast indoor marina without any water in it will house a fleet of beached boats when it opens in March next year. Robin Knox Johnson's little yacht, in which he sailed single-handed around the world, is anchored beside rowing-boats and catamarans. Celebrity boats include Prince Frederick's gilded barge, on loan from the Queen, which inspired Handel to write the Water Music; a Greenpeace dinghy that saw action at Bikini Atoll in the Pacific where the French conducted nuclear testing, and the 200-year-old stern of HMS *Implacable*. Seized after Trafalgar, the ship was used to teach sailors until the Navy scuttled it in 1949 at Portsmouth. Pig-iron ballast fell through its bows when the explosives were detonated, and it bobbed about the ocean for days. Now its figurehead of a snake-haired Medusa who turns all who look upon her to stone is fortunately under bubble wraps while Neptune Court is being built.

That glass ceiling, fritted to block 57 per cent of the sunlight, has made the beautifully lit enclosed courtyard that is known as Neptune Court. A network of steel girders made in France by Eiffel stretches like a high-wire safety net below a toughened glass roof that cleaners can walk on. The roof lattice has more struts than technically needed, but the real feat was to free the interior from a lengthy line-up of support pillars for the roof. Rick Mather, who was brought into the project



An artist's impression of the view from the Rococo gallery through to Public Entertainments

late on, after the lottery Heritage fund had refused to back a scheme to land the equivalent of a flying saucer in the space, fought to stop those regimented lines of pillars being built inside the courtyard. In

*This vast indoor marina without any water in it will house a fleet of beached boats when it opens in March next year*

stead he toughened the load-bearing walls by underpinning them. The result is a soaring, uninterrupted space.

Greenwich at zero degrees latitude is where the eyes of the world will focus on the millennium. It's where Great Britain launched herself as a seafaring nation and cracked the problems of navigation. To make sure that it doesn't lose its way in the Millennium Experience, the National Maritime Museum, which already gets half a million visitors each year, is redeveloping its exhibition space. They have more than 750,000 photographs and 4,000 paintings in the world's best collection of seafaring pictures, and they want to tell the story of our maritime history with more displays in 16 new spaces, which are due to open early in 1999. A cube, a sphere and a rectangular tower will house displays on the future of the sea. The Heritage Lottery Fund gave them £1.2m and they managed to raise a further £5m, mostly from P&O - which is why you'll find cruise liners on

exhibition.

"Also, they're enjoying a revival in popularity," the museum director, Stephen Riley, points out. Only six months before it opens to the public the National Maritime Museum needs another £3m sponsorship, which is why HMS *Implacable* is taking an early photo-call. Too early -

the ship's remains are still framed in scaffolding.

"Four weeks ago we started assembling the stern on site. I'd hoped to finish it yesterday." Kelvin Thatcher tries to explain the laborious business of restoration. For nearly 50 years *Implacable*'s carvings, decorations and 16 windows in two rows, which were removed by the Navy, have been kept in boxes at the museum. Kelvin Thatcher, a Norfolk maritime conservationist and model ship builder (and one-time student of architecture), has been piecing together more than 220 parts like a jigsaw, a far tougher task than making a fiddly model of the *Titanic* for an Alaskan museum.

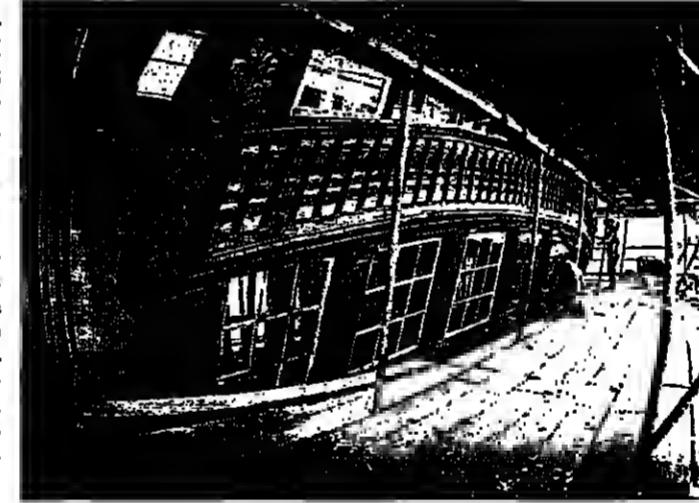
It took a year to clean the timbers, and then the workers needed to plot the curve of the stern with a scaffolding framework. Originally, copper rivets bolted the columns and windows on to a solid oak frame. Now they are fixed to the wall on a

Peter Macdiarmid

plywood backing. Just getting the curves right was difficult. Some of the curved timbers, bent in the 18th century when the wood was cut green, had straightened; others went down with the ship and timber technology today can't replicate that kind of bending. Kelvin Thatcher had to make a series of cuts to weaken the timbers to get the curves he needed. Since there is no longer any need for the stern to be watertight or to have any structural strength, this was acceptable.

"It's theatrical, so we had to do what looks right. It's not an exercise in ship-building," Thatcher explains. "I don't know anybody who could build a ship like that these days."

Ship-building has always reflected the architecture of its time, which is why the World Ship Trust preservationist group uses the stern of HMS *Implacable* as its logo above the terse motto, "Implacable Never Again".



The curve of the stern had to be plotted with scaffolding

## Building the future in a boatyard

The Nat West Media Centre at Lord's cricket ground has been assembled out of aluminium modules cast in the Pendennis boatyard at Falmouth. By Nomie Niesewand

**W**hen the architect Jan Kaplicky of Future Systems predicts that, in the next century, builders will wear deck shoes rather than gumboots and a hard hat, he is not talking about global warming. He is highlighting a trend to pre-fabricate complicated new building shapes in boatyards.

Organic architecture looks more like pods and shells than the way children draw houses - boxes supporting a pitched roof. Like shells, they have to be load-bearing.

The buzz-word with adventurous architects is *monocoque*, which has previously been applied to aircraft fuselages, car bodies or ships hulls in which nearly all structural loads are carried by the skin.

Not since the *Wonderbra* have so many curves relied upon hidden support. If the trend continues, the props of the construction industry - reinforced steel joists, pillars, posts and columns - will hit the skip, and go the way of whalebone corsets.

"Like an egg" is how Jan Kaplicky describes Future Systems' oval eye of the Nat West Media Centre that appears to hover over Lord's cricket ground. But nowhere near as fragile.

Kaplicky is so convinced that aluminium will be the material of the future that he took a stand at last year's Interbuild to make the point. It is eco-chic too, he believes, and

Greenpeace is not challenging him. "It uses night-rate electricity when it's made, can be recycled in a second smelting and has three times the shelf life of steel because it doesn't rust underneath paint the way that your car does. Half the weight of steel means that it uses less raw materials."

He calls the Media Centre a semi-monocoque building because ribs support the aluminium sheets lined with fireproof slab of a different density to protect the building for up to an hour.

Fireproofing aluminium was a first for the boatyard and for the structural engineers Ove Arup who advised it. The whole building is moulded in 26 sections in Rotterdam and Falmouth and assembled on site with watertight welding that makes the building seamless. The longest of the 26 pieces is almost 20 metres.

Each of the moulded segments is no wider than three metres - the maximum width for truck transport without police escorts. Future Systems wanted to float the Media Centre belly-up in bits, like a log flume, out of the Pendennis boatyard at Falmouth and berth it at the Thames docks, but it would still have needed road transport.

For such a big building it made little impact on the hallowed grounds of Lord's, far less than bricks and mortar dug into foundations or cantilevered concrete



Lord's cricket ground: new media centre for the world's commentators

cast on site. It appears to hover on top of two concrete stilts that will carry the 220 cricket commentators lifts into the womb-like curvaceous interior.

The entire facade is non-reflective glass, 40 metres of it, so underfloor cooling is critical to cut the greenhouse effect. Carpeting wall to wall when there are no walls, as such, is tricky: where do you stop? The architects talk about the blue

carpet they ran half way up the shell sides as the building's "blue suede shoes" - which says something about their relaxed attitude to furnishing it.

"A pilot flying a plane to India and facing into the sun can't just turn around and change the route to New York. Pilots stick up newspapers in the cockpit of the big jumbo at certain times to cut the glare."

A silver filter in the glass stops players, all wearing white, from dazzling spectators and the glass is angled within the aluminium pod to slope inwards and cut the glare.

If monocoque architecture isn't to go off half-cock, it needs the technology of the aircraft industry and the shipyards. The skill is in combining the two, which is why Jan Kaplicky has done ground-breaking work.

Now the Catalan architect Enric Miralles wants to get the Scottish Parliament built in a Scottish boatyard using traditional timber technology to shape the upturned hull that forms the roof of the debating chamber.

Only rowing boats are made in timber, which describes its beached boat form. Sailing boats are mostly aluminium or glass-reinforced plastic, though carbon fibre is the preferred material for America's Cup contenders. That old adage that a ship can carry a boat but a boat can't carry a ship explains why shipyards aren't involved in the building boom. Shipyards are all about steel and there is no way that you can bend steel so easily.

Even so, shipyards have lessons for the construction industry. Peter Quartermaine, the author of *Building on the Sea*, points out that any overweight building is wasteful to construct but still functions. In a ship, surplus steel means a daily

penalty in operating costs. "Most ships weigh only one third of a building of comparable size."

The quest for new ways of making things monocoque does not stop at buildings. The architect and Professor of Furniture at the Royal College of Art, Ron Arad, uses the concept in aluminium furniture made in Britain in an aircraft factory.

The Tom Vac aluminium chair, which is a bit like a deflated silver inner-tube pierced with cocktail-stick legs, is vacuum moulded, the same technique used to create aeroplane parts, at Superform in Worcester. The alternative was to invest hundreds of thousands of pounds to make a pressed tool that would produce a chair every two seconds.

Ron Arad, an inventive designer with a low boredom threshold, finds that kind of mass production too much and it would have cost far more. For the 1998 Milan furniture fair he used Superform's cavity forming process to heat aluminium to 500°C and then inflated it with air pressure through steel stencils. Vases and tables blew up in size as if on steroids.

Harnessing cutting-edge technology is what makes British designers world famous. Future Systems have designed the ultimate pre-lab by messing about with boat designs - and given us more to celebrate at Lord's than the cricket.

# EDINBURGH FESTIVAL '98

## No sleep, a thousand shows and deep-fried Maltesers

WELL, HERE we go again. Sleepy old Edinburgh fills up with a billion people and a billion quid. The Festival's on again. But which one? Book, Film, Mainstream, Fringe, Tattoo, de Tourist? Personally I'll try and fit between them all, though I prefer to watch the Tattoo from a distance. I will be spending most of my time hunched over at the Fringe festival. And for anyone with a hunger, anyone with a thirst for all that is culturally fringe this year, the beast is definitely in the trough. Bizarrely, the

Fringe has been extended to four weeks, which makes it even more of a test of endurance and survival. Due to the lengthening of the festival I foolishly thought that people would take it easier for the first few days, so that there was something in reserve for the end of the month and the ritualistic howling at the full moon that takes place to mark the end of four weeks of drinking, drug-taking, no sleep, a thousand shows, a thousand dumb reviews and deep-fried Maltesers. Unleash the Beast!

### FESTIVAL DIARY



MARK LITTLE

job/art as an alternative comedian as all that more important and dangerous and fun.

One thing that the comedy phenomenon of the last decade has done is to give "theatre" and especially "boring-irrelevant-who-gives-a-shit theatre" a good kick up the arse. And at the fringe this year there is a plethora of "wild, out-there relevant" fringe theatre. The fringe is making news again and possibly exposing the rotten, conservative heart of "Olde Reeke". Shows like O J Othello, David Benson's *Nothing but Pleasure* (which has seen him in the news defending his stance on such an important social phenomenon). And horror of censorship horrors, a performer was arrested on the Royal Mile the other day for shouting out "penis." Obscene? I think not. Antea Turner butt naked, wrapped around some poor old bloody snake? Obscene? I think so.

Once again the Fringe is taking society to task and I'm glad I'm part of it. And I am "stoked" to be able

to bold up the solo comedy performance end of things. Because more and more one finds oneself performing for hordes of Thatcher's children who have totally embraced the system - a system of insensitive globalised capitalism that has blinded them to humanity and the giant commercial rip-off that I believe we all live in.

So, Viva The Fringe, with all its bombast and bravery. But I've gotta rush now because I've got to find that fit little French bike bloke.

## Two men go mad on Brecht

Last year, trapped in a bathroom. This year, the Right Size asks: what is a human being? Seriously. By David Benedict

"HELLO MRS Spicer ..." OK, not the world's funniest line but that's because you can't see or hear it. Quite same people at last year's festival could be heard imitating Sean Foley's simultaneously wolfish and sheepish delivery of the greeting as he popped, besmirched, to his corner shop for a pint of milk and an egg, to be blushingly confronted by his local vision of lovelessness.

Actually, there was no pint of milk, no egg, nor even a corner shop. But try telling that to the audiences who collectively wet themselves. Foley and his partner-in-crime, Hamish McCall aka The Right Size, attached jumbleheads to their audience's imagination in *Do You Come Here Often?* This wildly inventive, no-lunatic assembly of theatrical sophistication, slapstick, warmth, wit and deep silliness was the runaway sensation of the festival and unarguably the finest, funniest comedy ever written about two men trapped in a bathroom.

To universal amazement, they didn't even make the Pevier shortlist. "Too theatrical," sniffed the committee. Still, The Right Size had the last laugh, sailing into a smash-hit West End season. And now, in my best cinematic "Coming Soon" style, I must tell you: "They're back... and this time it's Brecht."

The guys have gone legit and, what's more, they've teamed up with Kathryn Hunter, best known for her work with Theatre de Complicite. "People say, 'so, are you now going into texts?'" frowns McCall, the dark-haired one given to sterner characters. "But no, this is a one-off."

"There's the implication that we're going to leave all that juvenile

stuff alone now," adds Foley. Happily, after Edinburgh, a tour and then the Almeida, they're going straight back to the juvenile and writing a series for Channel 4.

Nevertheless, they're relishing working on a finished script - translation by Lee Hall, who wrote the great radio success *Spoonface Steinberg* - thereby relinquishing a degree of responsibility. After 10 years of double-act shows, they still love performing together, but, as Foley grows, "Normally we have to write the bastard, too."

McCall and Foley are at the head of a rather long line of people who, until recently had never heard of his satirical comedy, *Mr Puntilla and His Man Matti*. Hunter had been invited by the Almeida to direct something to celebrate Brecht's centenary and the three of them had talked about working together for years, so she sent them the script. With each Right Size show, they've added a new ingredient, from magic and acrobatics to Allen Power's increasingly mad sets, so a collaboration via someone else's script looked perfect for fresh inspiration.

The question that the play poses is: what is a human being? "There's the suggestion that there could be an enormous friendship between my character Puntilla and his servant," explains McCall, "but there can't be because of the social structure. I'm a landowner and he's a chauffeur, but in those mad farce moments where that friendship bursts through we can really use our double-act skills."

The toughest thing for them, let alone Hunter, is the knife-edge of the size and style of performance. Having them do their Right Size stick

*Mr Puntilla and His Man Matti* is at the Traverse (0131-228 1404)



The Right Size: acrobatics, mad improvisation and Brechtian social theory Hugh Glendinning

## Julius Caesar goes to Malawi

THE AFRICAN Julius Caesar opens with the type of boxing show that would make Don King proud. After successfully challenging the Germans, French and English, Julius Caesar defeats the mighty Pompeii to be crowned Emperor of Rome. In the space of 10 minutes, any fears you might have harboured about yet another Shakespeare adaptation disappear.

Set in the beautiful Royal Botanic Gardens, the show combines Malawian dancing and culture with Shakespearean dialogue. And here lies the secret of the production's

### COMEDY

THE AFRICAN  
JULIUS CAESAR  
THEATRICUM BOTANICUM

lates the subtlety of the production. While virtually every character is lying dead, the triumphant survivors, dressed in modern military uniforms, dance to welcome but also to affirm the new regime. And so, as the actors encourage the audience to join in the celebrations, the moral of the tale dawns on you. Is the new dictator any better than his predecessor? Is there any point in replacing like with like?

Runs until 31 August at the Theatrum Botanicum (0131 226 5257). ALEX HAYES

### 3PM

#### DANCE

3.30-4.30 A Moovin' and a Groovin'. A show of movement, rhythm and rhyme, plus a chance to learn to dance. Graffiti (venue 90, Broughton Street (337 8330). Price £1.50 (£2.50). 14-17, 19-28, 31 Aug.



Spiritualized, star of the Flux

### 4PM

#### COMEDY

4.30-5.30 Ben Moor - My Last Week With Modesta. A gentle tale of boy meets girl in which a cynical twentysomething junior plastic surgeon falls in love with an 88-year-old woman his "anti-Lolita". Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £8 (£5). To 31 Aug (not 18).

#### 5PM

#### THEATRE

5.00-7.00 Over the Edge. Minimalist plays from Zimbabwe. Demarco European Art Foundation (venue 22, York Lane (556 8409). Price £8 (£3). 14-15, 24-29 Aug.

#### 6PM

#### COMEDY

6.15-7.15 The Mighty Boosh A must-see show. Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £8 (£7). To 31 Aug.

### 7PM

#### MUSIC

7.40-8.20 Fiddling Around on the Fringe. Some of the Highland's best balladeers and fiddlers. Randolph Studio (venue 55), Inst. Francois d'Ecosse, 13 Randolph Cres. (225 5366). Price £6 (£4). To 16 Aug.

### 8PM

#### MUSIC

8.00-9.00 Spiritualised/Steve Martland (support Ben Neill). Two of the most original contemporary musical sounds. The Queen's Hall (venue 72), Clerk Street (668 2019/6687 7776). Price £12.50. Tonight only.

### 9PM

#### COMEDY

9.30-10.30 Chris Addison. Straight from touring with Jenny Eclair. Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £8-9 (£7-8). To 31 Aug (not 25).

### 10PM

#### THEATRE

10.15-11.15 The League Against Tedium. Insults, megalomaniac pronouncements and riddles from comedy's überstand-up boffin. Pleasance (venue 33), 60 The Pleasance (556 6550). Price £4. To 31 Aug (not 25).

### 11PM

#### CABARET

11.45-1.00 Mika - Ahi Ataahua (Beautiful Fire). Cabaret glitz meets karaoke. Assembly Rooms (venue 3), 54 George Street (226 2428). Price £8.50 (£7.50). To 5 Sept (not 17, 24 Aug, 1 Sept).

### 12 MIDNIGHT

#### COMEDY

12.00-3.00 Club Graffiti. Fridays, Midnight. Saturdays, Lizard Lounge. Graffiti (venue 90, corner of Broughton and East London streets (557 8330). Price £3-£7 (£5-6).

## Lost in a dark town

### COMEDY

KILL THE OLD TORTURE THEIR YOUNG TRAVERSE

DAVID HARROWER's first play, *Knives in Hens*, premiered in 1995, told the story of a young woman living in a pre-industrial rural community whose descriptive powers and mental horizons were widened by an intense and socially unacceptable relationship with the village miller.

It was beautifully written and structured that it instantly established the young Glaswegian as a major talent. *Kill the Old Torture Their Young*, a title that apparently came to Harrower while driving on the M8 between Edinburgh and Glasgow, shows a similarly impressive facility for sparse, understated dialogue, but it lacks the cohesion and emotional texture that made his debut so gripping.

Although in terms of setting - a pre-19th-century Scottish city rather like Edinburgh - it couldn't be more different, the new play suggests a continued interest in questions of perception and description. Robert is a documentary-maker returning home after 10 years, having been commissioned by a TV company to train his lens on his native terrain. But he no longer recognises the streets of his youth - almost all the faces he knew have vanished.

There's the young would-be actor, Darren, who becomes increasingly desperate at the menial jobs he keeps landing. The jetsetting cokehead Rock Singer is so disorientated that his idea of getting directions is to ask first which street he's in, then which city.

The pattern of people looking for points of connection and finding none produces a similar frustrating experience for the audience. We never delve into any of these lives. The documentary is an intangible, abstract commodity - like the city, there's precious little evidence of work in progress.

What takes place on stage is equally evanescent. You wait for ages to get hooked in, until at last it dawns on you that any real meaning is in the pipeline, too. Why it's called what it's called is anyone's guess.

Continues until 5 September (0131 228 1404). A version of this review appeared in yesterday's paper

DOMINIC CAVENDISH

### TICKET OFFERS

Pairs of tickets are on offer to the first readers to visit the appropriate box office with a copy of today's *Independent*, subject to availability.

Southside Courtyard (venue 16): 5 pairs, 10pm-10.30pm: *Savage Love*. Inspired interpretation of Sam Shepard's classic play about love opens after sell-out London run. The Pleasance (venue 33): 10 pairs, 4.35pm-5.55pm: *Tomagochi Heaven*. The story of 29-year-old Emily and her relationship with a cyber-pet. Calder's Gilded Balloon (venue 38): 5 pairs for each show, 1pm-3pm: *Flying Machine*. Theatre, 150 Cigarettes. Powerful new play of redemption on Death Row. 5.15pm-6.15pm: *John Butler Drives the Full Monty*.

### 11AM

#### THEATRE

11.30-1.00 A Soldier's Song. One Paratrooper remembers the Falklands. Assembly Rooms (venue 31, 54 George Street (226 2428). Price £8-9 (£7-8). To 5 Sept (not 16, 17, 26 Aug).

### 12 NOON

#### THEATRE

12.30-2.00 Crave. Startlingly elegant new play. Traverse Theatre (venue 15). Cambridge Street (226 1404). Price £8 (£7). To 5 Sept (not 17, 24, 31 Aug).

### 1PM

#### THEATRE

1.30-2.55 Shylock. A lucid and passionate evocation of Shakespeare's most controversial creation. Assembly Rooms (venue 31, 54 George Street (226 2428). Price £8 (£7). To 5 Sept (not 16, 18, 23 Aug).

### 2PM

#### CHILDREN

2.00-2.55 Rumpelstiltskin. Royal Mile Primary School (venue 58), Canongate. Price £3 (£2.50). 14-15, 17, 22-23 Aug.

# MUSIC

## Spinal Tap at the synagogue

Guns 'N' Moses mix heavy metal and Judaism to create the comic rock of 'Good Lovin' Man From the Holy Land'. But will the rabbis get the joke, let alone the rest of us? By Andrew Mueller

THE INTERFACE between heavy metal and Judaism is one that has, sadly, rarely been explored. It could be argued that most of the members of the absurd giant pantomime dames Kiss had the requisite cultural heritage, but it was never really something they over-emphasised in their work. Dave Cohen, who works nights as the singer and guitarist Azi Rosenberg, feels justified, therefore, in claiming that his band, Guns 'N' Moses, are pioneers, of a sort.

"I can only write about things that interest or engage me," says Cohen, "and being Jewish and heavy metal are two of the big ones. I wouldn't look into it too much deeper than that."

Guns 'N' Moses have existed as a half-formed, occasionally-performing idea for a few years now, and have been appearing more or less regularly on the London comedy circuit in their current line-up for a little more than 12 months. Aside from Cohen's alter ego, Rosenberg, the group's membership includes the former teen star Rabbi Williams, Tel Aviv ("He's the son of the Israeli Secretary of State for Defence, Ariel Bombardment") and the keffiyeh-clad drummer Keith Arafat. Their repertoire is a combination of heavy metal standards reworked from a Jewish perspective, and their own material.

"We do 'Stairway To Heaven' as a Hebrew folk ballad," explains Cohen. "Our own songs are things like 'Synagogue', which is about where we go on a Friday night to let our hair down, and 'Good Lovin' Man from the Holy Land', which is probably the definitive writing of our twin concerns. There is, of course, a long secret history of Jewish influence on heavy metal – you can see it in names like Genesis, Black Sabbath..."

Cohen has been writing and performing comedy for a long time, and



David Cohen, of Guns 'N' Moses: "There's a long history of secret Jewish influence on heavy metal"

his Guns 'N' Moses band-mates all have other musical and creative concerns – Cohen cheerfully admits that the band's primary reason for existing is to fulfil its increasingly middle-aged members' adolescent fantasies of rock stardom ("Oh God, yeah; it's what every comedian wants, really"). That said, he re-

mains acutely aware that, given his band's choice of material, it's not always going to be that simple.

"There are," he says, "aspects of the act that Jewish people will find offensive, but that's because we're not a homogeneous mass of people who all think the same thing.

"Also, despite the obvious thrust

of the act, I'd never want to do a joke that a non-Jewish person wouldn't get, and the same thing applies with the heavy metal – I wouldn't want to do things that most of the audience hasn't heard of. That's also part of the reason we're looking at other genres. We do a bit of country and Middle-

Eastern in the act, and we have a disco song, called 'Play That Funky Music Jew Boy'."

Cohen acknowledges the quandary that often affects performers whose source material is their own culture – that audiences can start laughing at them rather than with them – but seems to think he knows

where this particular line is drawn.

"Oh, they're laughing with it," he states. "When your last name is Cohen and you do a stand-up act, people know who you are and what you are straightforward. My rule has always been that if I do a line and it sounds as if people are laughing at it rather than with it, I drop the line.

"It's difficult to say at the moment what space Jewish humour occupies in Britain. It's definitely the mainstream humour in America – Seinfeld is the obvious example, but even Friends, Frasier and The Simpsons have a Jewish sensibility, and often you see that the names of the writers are obviously Jewish; and given that American humour inevitably becomes universal, people here are catching up on it. But when I started doing stand-up, there were very few things about being Jewish I could talk about that people understood. We couldn't eat bacon, and our Sabbath was Saturday, but that was about it."

Cohen says Guns 'N' Moses are currently driven less by ambition than by the desire to have a good time, although he is clearly disappointed that a recent proposed tour of Israel fell through. The group do not have a record deal yet and, in fact, have not yet received a single offer of one. The reliability of comedy acts in providing short-term returns for record companies suggests that this will not be the case for long, though Cohen, for his part, is sceptical.

"We'd like to do a record, I suppose," he says. "But it would have to be a fantastically complex concept album, or a live at the Golders Green Hippodrome, kind of thing. We would insist on a gatefold double sleeve. We're very stuck in the early Seventies, and we haven't quite grasped the concept of the CD yet, except in so far as it looks like a bagel."

### THE CHARTS

#### TOP 10 UK SINGLES

TITLE & ARTIST
1 No Matter What Boyzone
2 Mysterious Times Sash! feat Tina Cousins
3 Viva Forever Spice Girls
4 Pure Morning Placebo
5 Ghetto Supastar Pras Michel/ODB/MYA
6 Lost In Space ApolloFourForty
7 Come With Me Puff Daddy/Jimmy Page
8 Needin' You David Morales...
9 Life Is A Flower Ace of Bass
10 Freak Me Another Level

#### TOP 10 UK ALBUMS

TITLE & ARTIST
1 Talk On Corners The Corrs
2 International Velvet Catatonia
3 Jane McDonald Jane McDonald
4 Postcards From Heaven Lighthouse Family
5 Desireless Eagle-Eyed Cherry
6 Where We Belong Boyzone
7 Blue Simply Red
8 Let's Talk About Love Celine Dion
9 Life Thru A Lens Robbie Williams
10 Version 2.0 Garbage

## Breaking the sound barrier

Where is all the modern music in the Edinburgh Festival? The Flux Festival is answering back in maverick style. By Velimir Pavle Ilic

BACK IN Edinburgh for its second year, the Flux Festival which opens tonight looks set to build on the success of last year's event with another set of unique collaborations and rare performances.

It was founded by Alex Poots and David Sefton to bridge the divide between the classically oriented Edinburgh International Festival and the inherent comedy and theatre of the Fringe.

It worked spectacularly well. Last year Poots and Sefton waltzed off with the Scotland On Sunday Critics Award For Music for a collaboration between Michael Nyman and The Divine Comedy. This year, Spiritualized and the fated classical composer Steve Martland are scheduled to perform new vocal and conceptual pieces together on the opening two nights.

David Sefton is head of artistic development at the South Bank (following an early stint as a writer for the defunct music tabloid *Sounds*). He says: "I'd go to the Edinburgh Festival every year and see what was going on. They were great on theatre, fine on classical music, but there was absolutely no recognition of contemporary popular music at all. Punters would go for the cabaret and the theatre, but I just thought 'Where's the music? You'd be lucky to get Ray Davies.'

"So that's where it all started... I'm very, very pleased at the bill we've put together for this year's event."

Sefton admits to an admiration for all the artists on this year's roster. It raises the question of how much influence he and Poots have over the general content and structure of the whole event, particularly as they try to encourage the acts to be more adventurous than they would on a normal tour.

"It's enthusiasm that drives what you do," he explains. "We book the acts and then we



Divine comedy teamed with Michael Nyman in 1997

talk about what they do. I went to the first rehearsal of the Spiritualized/Martland project last night, and it was great, fortunately. You have to put people together who you think are going to work. I don't think what happens when they don't – that's a bridge I'll cross when I come to it.

"There are 'straight' gigs in there, but they're programmed because they're interesting people: Asian Dub Foundation will do what they do, but will also support themselves with a DJ set. Everyone is encouraged to do something a bit wacky. Nick Cave is doing a solo show that's never been seen in the UK before, accompanying himself on the piano, with elements of spoken word."

The ensemble played at the Jaffa Cake, a venue with "no air conditioning and a stage the size of a handkerchief... we played three shows over two nights, and I can say

without any doubt that they were two of the hottest nights of my life, and two of the most exhilarating.

"The crowded Jaffa Cake only added to the atmosphere – it was an experience I wouldn't have missed."

Sefton says: "The festival context in Edinburgh makes it very clear that this is not just the latest tour by a person or a band, and so it allows the possibility for space and experimentation. They're performing in a place where people expect weird things to happen. For the most part, the artists embrace that and think 'We can go there and take chances'."

One of Sefton's great strengths is his ability to transmit his enthusiasm to others. It comes across as he says: "Spiritualized/Martland is going to be fantastic. Getting John Zorn into the country after he said he'd never come back is great. The Jesus And Mary Chain haven't played in Edinburgh for 10 years, so that's going to be wild. The Delgados and Six By Seven are also playing – The Delgados are one of the best bands in the country, and Six By Seven have made one of the best records of the year. With Necarino No 9 on the same bill, there will not be a better gig put together in the whole of the UK this year. Last year we did Mogwai, Urusei Yatsura and The Delgados on that triple bill, and it was just an awesome evening."

With PJ Harvey and Nick Cave already sold out, and David Thomas, Yo La Tengo, Roddy Frame and the New York electro-artist Ben Neill also appearing, it promises to be an astonishing two weeks.

The Flux Festival, 14-29 August at the Jaffa Cake and the Queen's Hall. Tickets from the Queen's Hall (0131-665 2019; credit card bookings 0131-667 7776; Fringe booking office 0131-226 5139)

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Gravene

# Mr Love Pants hits his rhythm

Ian Dury and the Blockheads came out of the Essex badlands like a romp in a Cortina. Clever or what?

By Pierre Perrone

IN AN increasingly backward-looking music scene, the occasional reunion gigs played by Ian Dury & The Blockheads (with Madness, for instance) over the last eight years, always offered a chance to dance, party and reflect on the strengths of what the singer still calls "the best English funk band". With Dury's recently diagnosed liver cancer and the release of *Mr Love Pants*, the outfit's first album for 17 years, recent appearances such as last weekend's show-stealer at Paul Weller's Victoria Park concert have taken an extra urgency and added a certain poignancy.

Nostalgia is no longer the only order of the day and this rescheduled Dingwalls performance for media and GLR listeners (the BBC London station recorded the show for future broadcast) was packed to the rafters, with touts outside Camden's finest sweatshop charging up to £100 for a ticket. It was nearly worth that.

A piano ripple by Chas Jankel led The Blockheads into "Wake Up And Make Love With Me" as Ian Dury was escorted to the microphone by his minder. Sporting dark shades and a white tie, the singer launched into the opening double entendre ("I come awake with a gift for womankind") and grinned as if taken aback by the warmth of the audience's reception. "Clever Trevor", also from the seminal *New Boots And Panties* album, took things up a notch before the band got a chance to perform some new material in the shape of the football-chant-like "Passing Show".

This established the pattern of the evening. Old faves ("Billericay Dickie", "Spasticus Autisticus") jostled with new songs full of flavour but not quite of the same vintage (though "Jack Shit George" and "Mash It Up Harry" duly took their place in Dury's gallery of cockney rogues). Ian lifted his dark glasses

and mentioned a 1973 Kilburn & The High Roads gig he'd played in the same venue (then positioned in a different corner of Camden Lock). Some of the audience (pop art guru Peter Blake, veteran manager Peter Jenner) even remembered it.

"What A Waste" saw the set lose momentum, Dury struggling with a recalcitrant mike stand before making a brilliant recovery, ad libbing "how many roadies does it take to gaffer-tape a mike?" into the shopping-list lyrics. His stage demeanour conjured up the ghosts of music-hall comedians Max Wall and Max Miller, and gave a slight nod in the direction of Sex Pistol Johnny Rotten who copped his leer and leaning into the mike stand from Dury's pub-rocker days.

Bolstered by drummer Dylan Howe (son of Yes guitarist Steve Howe, replacing the late Charley Charles), but curiously without saxophonist Davey Payne, the Blockheads were as tight as ever, mining a rich jazz-funk seam which perfectly complemented Dury's unique brand of street poetry and rap. A court jester juggling with a rhyming dictionary when he's not switching into alliteration overdrive, that's our Ian.

Still, the group perversely opted not to play the three best tracks (the poignant "You're My Baby", the lush "Honeysuckle Highway", the luscious "Geraldine") from *Mr Love Pants*. Not to worry – all the old faves were there. "Reasons To Be Cheerful Part 3", "Sweet Genius" and "Hit Me With Your Rhythm Stick" building up to a celebratory climax of "Sex and Drugs and Rock'n'Roll". With or without the crutchless knicker (yes, he wore those back in 1977!), delinquently louche, wonderfully entertaining and backed by one of the tightest bands ever, Ian Dury remains a peerless, uniquely British talent to be treasured.



Ian Dury grapples with the mike stand in a classic pose of lean and leer that Sex Pistol Johnny Rotten imitated Andrew Buurman

## LYRIC SHEETS

### IAN DURY

*Ian Dury, author of Billericay Dicky and many other songs, performed with Paul Weller in East London last weekend. His new record is called "Mr Love Pants"*

**Poem for Ian Dury**  
Good evening, I'm from Essex  
In case we couldn't see  
His withered arm and villain's voice  
An obvious for Housewives' Choice  
In Dagenham maybe

### Good evening, I'm from Essex

In case it passed your noses  
A raspberry ripple stole the stage  
A gent from the Cortina age  
Complete with dashboard roses

**Good evening, I'm from Essex**  
In case you didn't know  
Where music-hall met up with funk

Escorted home by way of punk  
With minder, Spider Rowe

**Good evening, I'm from Essex**  
In case you missed the toasts  
He rocks the mic from side to side  
Cos ever since Gene Vincent died

**Good evening, I'm from Essex**  
In case it sounds plebian  
From Brantree down to Walthamstow  
The blockheads and the ladies know  
His given name is Ian

MARTIN NEWELL

## RIFFS

THE FIRST AND LAST RECORDS BOUGHT BY KWAME KWATEN, MIXER OF BRITISH SOUL BAND D-INFLUENCE

First record: Boomtown Rats' "Rat Trap" FUNNLY ENOUGH. I don't listen to it now, but I would say I still like it. The original thing that attracted me to it was the energy of the track, the way it had so many different sections and its length. I remember being frightened about buying it because they were part of the punk Post-Modern scene, so it was a bit of an odd thing for a young black guy to buy. I listened to it round the house, but it was very secret listening. When everyone was out, I would turn it up really loud and go around. I think it shows the fundamental difference between American soul and UK soul; we all listen to the same reference points – Marvin Gaye, Chaka Khan, Aretha Franklin but The Boomtown Rats were daytime radio listening, whereas in America they might have been listening to Debbie Gibson.

The imagery was just imagery and it was the most left of centre thing that we could be into at that time that our parents wouldn't be down with. There was a real punk and reggae and dub thing going on there which is now embraced by the crusties. There wasn't really black pop music *per se*. So you really were going for the most cutting edge thing.

Last record: Stardust's "Music Sounds Better With You"

I think there are rare moments of brilliance every couple of years and this song is one of them. It's great to dance to and really lose yourself in. It kind of reminds me of the hypnotic effect of Crystal Waters' "Gipsy Woman" when it first came out. It was bang on the nose until it was played out on every radio station. It's the same with this track. It has all the best elements of dance: hypnotic, simple and there is a degree of emotion that you can lose yourself in. The books of it, the things that draw you in, are really easy to remember. It's really uplifting, whether you are going out in the day or in the morning you put it on. I have it on 12". In fact, I bought two copies, because you can mix them together and have great fun.

D-Influence release "Rock With You" August 17 (Echo Records)

INTERVIEW BY JENNIFER RODGER

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REVIEWED BY ANDY GILL



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### WHEAT

(Sugar Free 15493004-2)

ALTHOUGH THERE'S something a little too considered about *theaudience* – the all-black uniform, Sophie Ellis-Bextor's game style, the restraint of their perfectly-manicured pop – it's virtually impossible not to be impressed by this debut album, which might well be the final cherry on the Britpop cake. The prime reference-point is clearly Pulp, though Jarvis's constant wrestling with his conscience is rather more revealing than Sophie's superior cool. But guitarist Billy Reeves' cleverly-crafted, laconic lyrics would give anybody a boost of confidence.

The tone of Reeves' songs is

signalled by titles like "A Pessimist

Is Never Disappointed" and "You

Get What You Deserve": these are

lyrics which alight on situations and spiral inwards to their core.

At times, they can be too arch to be

really effective, but even a relative

clunker like "Now That You Are 18"

includes notions as astrenging as

"your dream/has become/routine".

Less welcome is the navel-gazing

that attends "I Got The

Wherewithal", whose fascination

with album review ratings hints at

the obsessive insularity which

helped bring indie-pop to its

present sticky state.

Though there's an obvious link from one track to another, Medeiros seems like a song-cycle: there's a powerful sense of connection running through these eight songs, as if one issue is being worked out in a variety of ways, perhaps over the slow course of a summer holiday. Singer Steve Vesuvio is from the Neil Young school of weary croaks, while the band's arrangements – methodical, cycling guitars, amorphous keyboard washes, and occasional quiet scralls of synthesiser noise – artfully complement the air of enigmatic enigma. Such lazy brilliance is rare indeed.



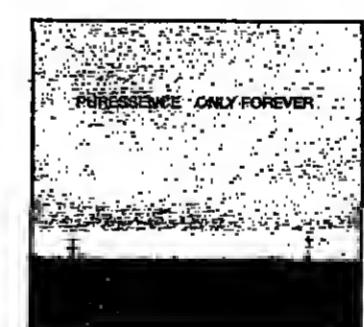
### EMMYLU HARRIS

(Grapevine GRCD 241)

NAMED AFTER the all-singing, all-dancing point man of a New Orleans Mardi Gras tribe, whose appearance presages the imminent arrival of the tribal procession at the city's annual carnival, *Spyboy* finds silver-haired country queen Emmylou Harris capitalising on the success of 1995's career-reviving *Wrecking Ball*, which won her the following year's Contemporary Folk Grammy.

A live album drawing on all stages of her career, from "Love Hurts" – one of the duets with the late Gram Parsons which prefaced her first solo outing – through to a luminous new version of Daniel Lanois' "The Maker", it showcases both Emmylou's strengths (as singer and as judge of material) and the quicksilver style of her band, now also called *Spyboy*. The work of guitarist Buddy Miller, in particular, is quite dazzling, showering furies of fast-picked notes across the album with a nerveless nonchalance.

The songs come from reliable sources – Lanois, Parsons, Jesse Winchester, Rodney Crowell, etc – though Harris's own "Boulder To Birmingham", originally from her 1975 debut *Pieces Of The Sky*, remains the equal of anything here.



### PURENESSSE

(Only Forever)

(Island CID 8064)

WHEN PURENESSSE's eponymous debut was released in May 1996, it was hopelessly out of step with musical fashion, floundering – for all its tyro confidence – in the wake of the previous year's Oasis/Blur commotion. Since then, Radiohead and The Verve have radically altered the landscape of British pop, replacing rampant laddism with a new depth and seriousness, to the point where Purenessse's brand of soaring, soul-baring rock suddenly acquired a remarkable prescience. Theirs is a stern, powerful sound, reminiscent of new-wavers like Wire and The Comsat Angels, with James Mudriczki's idiosyncratic, quavering tenor sounding at times uncannily like Love's Arthur Lee.

Mudriczki brings an ambivalent, quizzical awe to songs such as "This Feeling" and "Never Be The Same Again", but his range of vocal moves – the ever-present vibrato and melodic intervals he favours – could be much wider; there were several points on *Only Forever* where I felt I was listening to the same song I had heard a few tracks earlier. Musically, a prevailing grey tone to Purenessse's stadium rock belies the apparent passion and ambition of their songs.



### MICHAEL BROOK & DJIVAN GASPARIAN

Black Rock

(Realworld CDRW73)

WITH LITTLE fuss, guitarist/producer Michael Brook has, over the last few years, become the pre-eminent enabler of world-music crossovers, through rewarding Realworld collaborations with the likes of U Srinivas and (most spectacularly) Nusrat Fateh Ali Khan. This time, he's working with the Armenian duduk player Djivan Gasparian, whose 1994 album *Moon Shines At Night* remains one of the most powerfully evocative releases of recent years.

The *duduk* is a Eurasian wind instrument akin to the flute or *shakuhachi*, though in Gasparian's expert hands, it possesses a deceptively malleable tone, eliding smoothly between notes to lend a heady, seductive sway to the eight pieces which comprise *Black Rock*. Brook, for his part, unerringly locates the inner rhythms of pieces like "To The River" and "Take My Heart" with hand percussion and repetitive guitar figures – no mean feat, considering the *duduk*'s crepuscular timbre, which sometimes seems to just hang suspended in the ether, disappearing into the space between music and mood. The results are quite magical.

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# Can't take the stress, M'Lud

Burn-out is a serious problem for today's lawyers. By Robert Verkaik

RESEARCH PUBLISHED BY THE US-based consultancy the Great Work/Life Debate and the magazine *Management Today* shows that English lawyers take more time off for personal reasons than any other professional group. Lawyers made up 18 per cent of the 5,500 respondents to the survey, which showed that 28 per cent of lawyers took off more than four days a year for personal reasons compared with an average across the professions of 22 per cent.

The survey also found that more than two-thirds of lawyers would take a cut in salary in exchange for a better balance between work and outside life, compared with just a quarter in the national average.

The consultancy's chief executive, Liz Bargh, comments: "This will hit a nerve with many people; these are highly capable professional people keen to give the outward appearance of keeping control. Yet the sacrifices some are making for the sake of their careers are shocking."

The life of a young City lawyer in the Nineties has become more like the life of a City trader during the booming Eighties. Many solicitors are happy now to sell themselves to clients as superlawyers who can go days without sleep to complete a deal or win a case. The work-hard culture in some law firms means that lawyers will even compete with each other to leave the office last. Stories abound of solicitors keeping computers switched on all night just to give the impression that they are still in the building.

And figures compiled recently by the personnel departments of some of the leading City law firms show that stories of overworked lawyers are not apocryphal; the firms are struggling to hang on to assistant solicitors. Turnover rates among the worst affected firms are as much as 40 per cent. Many are falling victim to burn-out and high levels of stress.

The City's largest firm, Clifford Chance, now operates an in-house stress-counselling service for those lawyers who may have done one deal too many. A managing partner, Tony Williams, whose own firm has an assistant solicitor turnover rate of between 22 and 24 per cent, says: "We want to do our best so that people do not suffer burn-out. We want to help them manage the level of work they can handle."

But he acknowledges that the top 10 law firms are facing an exodus of young lawyers from the City. "There are high pressures in the top firms, and it is clearly an issue in relation to retaining people, but hours are not the overriding factor."

The firm now carries out extensive exit interviews of departing lawyers. These show that many lawyers are deliberately opting for a better balance between work and outside life, compared with just a quarter in the national average.

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Lawyers who work 48 hours at a stretch are at risk of illness

drug problems, says many solicitors cope with stress by becoming dependent on drugs or alcohol.

He warns that City law firms which allow their solicitors to work 36 hours without sleep are storing up trouble. "Not only are they putting the health of their lawyers at risk, they could also be running the risk of serious errors being made, which can cost big money."

Dr Pritchard advises lawyers caught up in gruelling monotonous deals to go home and grab a couple of hours' sleep. "If someone is going to carry on working non-stop for 48 hours, the quality of their work is going to be pretty abysmal."

Clifford Chance's Williams argues that because of client demands, it is difficult to ensure that lawyers can always take proper breaks during deals or major litigation. A psychologist, Dr David Lewis, has carried out a detailed comparative study of the pressures under

which professionals work. It showed that only doctors and air traffic controllers experience more stressful working lives than lawyers.

Dr Lewis says that in his study, it was the assistant solicitors who experienced the greatest level of stress because they had little control over their working environment. Many felt the greatest stress came from having to justify themselves in terms of billing power, and many thought that doing "pro bono" legal work would at least provide some benefit in terms of personal satisfaction.

The ones to benefit from all this angst and burn-out have been the larger regional law firms who have been cashing in on the solicitor fall-out from the London City firms. Last year, Birmingham firm Wragge & Co tried to tempt City lawyers with an ad campaign that sold Birmingham as the place where more quality of life. Ex-City lawyer David Barron, who is now at Wragge & Co says:

"I want to be able to see people during the week and have some sort of life. At the weekend, I want to be in the countryside rather than face a two-hour slog on the motorway."

And at the Tumbridge Wells firm Cripps Harries Hall, managing partner Jonathan Denny says: "In spite of the very high pay, there is a widespread disenchantment with the City. The pressures are excessive and people wise up to that sooner or later. But he warns that City lawyers should not regard regional practices as a soft option. "Sometimes they think they are coming for a quiet life, and they may not be working quite the same hours - but it's not going to be straight 9am to 5pm, either."

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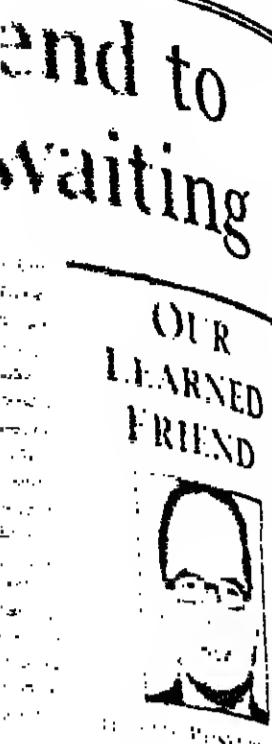
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## NEW FILMS

### THE AVENGERS (12)

Director: Jeremiah Chechik  
Starring: Ralph Fiennes, Uma Thurman, Sean Connery  
Unavailable for preview at time of going to press. The distributors appear to have so little faith in this modern adaptation of the cult television series that they have decided to screen it for the press - a bad sign.

What we do know is that Ralph Fiennes dons the bowler hat and wields the cane as Stead, Uma Thurman pours herself into a cat suit as Emma Peel, while Sean Connery sashays around in a taffeta as the diabolical Auguste de Winter, who plans to take over the world by controlling the weather. Judge for yourself.

CW: ABC *Baker Street*, ABC *Tottenham Court Road*, *Barbican Screen*, *Clapham Picture House*, *Hammermith Virgin*, *Odeon Camden Town*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Odeon Marble Arch*, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *Phoenix Cinema*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Fulham Road*, *Virgin Trocadero*, *Warner Village West End*

### EVE'S BAYOU (15)

Director: Kas Lemmons  
Starring: Samuel L Jackson, Lynn Whitfield  
Things we have seen too many times, part two: miserly 19th-century women being sold off to cold, heartless landowners and having corsets painstakingly laced and unlaced. Sophie Marceau is the Swiss governess who bears a child for the wealthy aristocrat Stephen Dillane, then devotes the rest of her life to finding the girl. Nicholas (who wrote *Shadowlands*) makes a disheartening debut as director with a starchy melodrama in which the only pleasures come from the hysterically overstated use of symbolism.

CW: *Clapham Picture House*, *Curzon Minerva*, *Screen on the Hill*, *Virgin Fulham Road*, *Virgin Haymarket*

a philandering doctor, this feels for the most part like reheated *Fried Green Tomatoes*.

CW: *Gale Notting Hill*, *Odeon Mezzanine*, *Plaza*, *Ritz Cinema*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Trocadero*

### FIRELIGHT (15)

Director: William Nicholson  
Starring: Sophie Marceau, Stephen Dillane, Lia Williams

Things we have seen too many times, part two: miserly 19th-century women being sold off to cold, heartless landowners and having corsets painstakingly laced and unlaced. Sophie Marceau is the Swiss governess who bears a child for the wealthy aristocrat Stephen Dillane, then devotes the rest of her life to finding the girl. Nicholas (who wrote *Shadowlands*) makes a disheartening debut as director with a starchy melodrama in which the only pleasures come from the hysterically overstated use of symbolism.

CW: *Clapham Picture House*, *Curzon Minerva*, *Screen on the Hill*, *Virgin Fulham Road*, *Virgin Haymarket*

### GANG RELATED (15)

Director: Jim Kafu  
Starring: James Brolin, Tupac Shakur, James Earl Jones  
*See The Independent Recommends*, right

CW: *Ritz Cinema*, *Virgin Trocadero*

### MAJORETTES IN SPACE: FIVE GAY TALES FROM FRANCE (18) subtitles

Director: Various

*See The Independent Recommends*, right

CW: *ICA Cinema*

Ryan Gilbey

## GENERAL RELEASE

**THE ADVENTURES OF ROBIN HOOD (U)**  
A perfect antidote to the bombast of *Armageddon* can be found in Michael Curtiz's merry and inventive romp starring Errol Flynn. One of the greatest swashbucklers ever made. CW: *Curzon Mayfair*, *Screen on the Hill*

### ARMAGEDDON (12)

This deeply stupid film purports to be a tender love story, a meaty action adventure and a global disaster movie in which a meteor is on a collision course with Earth. Every moment is carefully engineered to include something for everyone, yet its jumble of styles will end up pleasing no one. CW: ABC *Tottenham Court Road*, *Barbican Screen*, *Clapham Picture House*, *Elephant & Castle Coronet*, *Hammermith Virgin*, *Notting Hill*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Odeon Leicester Square*, *Odeon Marble Arch*, *Odeon Camden Town*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *Rio Cinema*, *Ritz Cinema*, *Screen on Baker Street*, *Screen on the Hill*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Chelsea*, *Virgin Fulham Road*

### BARNEY'S GREAT ADVENTURE (U)

Feature-length exploits for the big, jolly dinosaur. CW: *Clapham Picture House*, *Elephant & Castle Coronet*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Chelsea*, *Virgin Trocadero*

### THE CASTLE (15)

When his family home is threatened with demolition, truck driver Darryl Kerrigan (Michael Caton) decides to fight back and stand up for his rights. File under Quirky Australian Kitsch. CW: *Empire Leicester Square*, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *Warner Village West End*

### CITY OF ANGELS (12)

Nicolas Cage plays an angel puzzling over whether or not to exchange his divinity for domestic bliss with Meg Ryan. CW: *Virgin Trocadero*, *Warner Village West End*

### THE DAYTRIPPERS (15)

Worried that her publisher husband (Stanley Tucci) may be having an affair, Eliza (Hope Davis) confides in her parents, only to find that the whole family insists on accompanying her to Manhattan for the day to confront him. CW: *Clapham Picture House*, *Odeon Camden Town*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Richmond Filmhouse*, *Ritz Cinema*, *Virgin Fulham Road*, *Virgin Haymarket*

### DR DOLITTLE (PG)

The thought of Eddie Murphy functioning within the restrictions of a PG certificate may not be a promising one, but in the snappy new film version of *Dr Dolittle*, he shows that his talents are more pliable than they might first have appeared. CW: *Elephant & Castle Coronet*, *Hammermith Virgin*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Odeon Marble Arch*, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *Plaza*, *Ritz Cinema*, *UCI Whiteleys*, *Virgin Fulham Road*, *Virgin Trocadero*, *Warner Village West End*

### THE GINGERBREAD MAN (15)

The routine level of so much in this film disappoints on every front. Odd fragments remind you that here we have a great director (Robert Altman) marking time. CW: ABC *Shaftesbury Avenue*, *Odeon Kensington*, *Warner Village West End*

### GODZILLA (PG)

The team which cooked up such blockbusters as *StarGate* and *Independence Day* is generally very adept at constructing enjoyable adventures with a B-movie taste for fun. Unfortunately, in this case, their light touch has deserted them. CW: *Elephant & Castle Coronet*, *Empire Leicester Square*, *Odeon Camden Town*, *Odeon Marble Arch*, *Odeon Swiss Cottage*, *UCI Whiteleys*

### LA GRANGE ILLUSION (U)

Reissued in a restored print struck from the long-lost negative, Jean Renoir's 1937 classic war movie. CW: ABC *Swiss Centre*, *Screen on Baker Street*

### GREASE (20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION) (PG)

Twentieth-anniversary reissue of the nostalgic musical, starring John Travolta. CW: ABC *Baker Street*, *Empire Leicester Square*, *Virgin Trocadero*

### HANA-BI (18)

Pleasing thriller starring Bill Pullman as Daryl Zero, the world's greatest private investigator. CW: *Odeon Camden Town*, *Virgin Chelsea*, *Virgin Haymarket*, *Warner Village West End*

ZERO EFFECT (15)

Pleasing thriller starring Bill Pullman as Daryl

Zero, the world's greatest private investigator. CW: *Odeon Camden Town*, *Virgin Chelsea*, *Virgin Haymarket*, *Warner Village West End*

### THE WEDDING SINGER (12)

Shamelessly dumb but winning comedy starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore. CW: *Odeon Empire Leicester Square*, *Virgin Trocadero*

### ZERO EFFECT (15)

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ZERO EFFECT (1

**HOLLOWAY**  
ODEON (0181-315 4213)  $\diamond$  Archway.  
Armageddon 11.30pm, 1.35pm, 4.00pm,  
5.30pm, 6pm, 8.40pm, 9.10pm The  
Avengers 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm,  
5pm, 10.10pm Barney's Great Ad-  
venture 1.10pm Dr Dolittle 11.45pm,  
1.20pm, 1.50pm, 3.25pm, 3.55pm,  
6.15pm, 6.10pm, 7.50pm, 8.15pm,  
9.35pm, 9.50pm Eve's Bayou 2.30pm,  
6.15pm, 9.35pm Gang Related 2.20pm,  
4.30pm, 7.20pm, 9.50pm Godzilla  
11.40pm The Little Mermaid 12.05pm,  
Lost In Space 3pm, 6.15pm, 9.05pm  
The Magic Sword: Quest For Camelot  
12.35pm

**MUSWELL HILL**  
ODEON (0181-315 4217)  $\diamond$  High-  
gate. Armageddon 1.30pm, 5.05pm,  
5.35pm Dr Dolittle 1.25pm, 2.15pm,  
4.40pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm Lost In Space  
12.05pm, 2.45pm, 5.35pm, 8.30pm

**PECKHAM**  
PREMIER (0151-235 3006)  
BR Peckham Rye. Armageddon 4.00pm,  
4.15pm, 5pm, 11.15pm The Avengers  
2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm, 10.15pm  
Barney's Great Adventure 12.45pm Dr  
Dolittle 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 4.00pm,  
6.30pm, 9.10pm Eve's Bayou 8.00pm,  
7.05pm, 9.35pm Gang Related 2.20pm,  
6.15pm, 9.35pm Godzilla 12.35pm, 3.20pm,  
6.05pm, 8.50pm Grease (20th An-  
niversary Edition) 2.30pm The Little  
Mermaid 1.15pm The Magic Sword:  
Quest For Camelot 2.25pm Paulie  
12.30pm Soul Food 11.30pm

**PUTNEY**  
ABC (0170-9024011)  $\diamond$  Putney Bridge.  
Armageddon 2.15pm, 5.05pm, 9pm The  
Avengers 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 7.45pm,  
10pm Barney's Great  
Adventure 1.15pm Dr Dolittle 12.05pm,  
1.25pm, 4.15pm Lost In Space  
6.25pm, 9.15pm

**RICHMOND**  
ODEON (0181-315 4218)  
BR  $\diamond$  Richmond. Barney's Great  
Adventure 1pm City Of Angels 3.30pm,  
4.30pm, 8.30pm The Avengers  
1.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm,  
9.30pm Lost In Space 12.10pm,  
3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm

**ODEON STUDIO** (0181-315 4218)  
BR  $\diamond$  Richmond. Barney's Great  
Adventure 1pm City Of Angels 3.30pm,  
4.30pm, 8.30pm The Avengers  
1.30pm, 2.40pm, 4.50pm, 7pm,  
9.30pm Lost In Space 12.10pm,  
3.10pm, 6.10pm, 9.10pm

**PRINCE CHARLES** Leicester Place  
WC2 (0171-437 8181) L.A.  
Confidential (18) 1pm Kiss Or Kill (18)  
4pm Me! (18) 6.30pm Dark City (18)  
9pm (+) Short: La Bell Boy (18) The  
Rocky Horror Picture Show (18) 11.45pm

**RIVERSIDE STUDIOS** Cilp Road  
W6 (0181-237 1111/0171-420100)  
Le Crime De Monsieur Lange (PG)  
6.15pm + Une Partie De Campagne  
7.50pm + La Regle Du Jeu 8.55pm

**WATERMANS ARTS CENTRE** High  
Street, Brentford, Middlesex (0181-568  
1176) The Magic Sword: Quest For  
Camelot (U) 1.30pm The Big Lobow-  
Id (18) 4.30pm The Portrait Of A  
Lady (12) 4.55pm + The Wings Of The  
Dove 9.15pm

**BRIGHTON** DUKY OF YORK'S (01273-626261)  
Whee We Were Kings (PG) 1.15pm  
Rana-Bi (18) 7.15pm

**CAMBRIDGE** ARTS (01223-504444) The  
Adventures Of Robin Hood (U) Fri 1pm,  
7pm Journey To The Beginning Of The  
World (U) Mon-Wed 5.15pm; also Thu  
5.15pm, 7.15pm Life Is All You Get (18)  
3pm, 9.15pm Live Flesh (18) Fri 5.10pm

**CARDIFF** CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE  
(01222-399666) L'Appartement (15)  
6.15pm Savier (18) 8.40pm

**NORWICH** CITY (01603-622047)  
Fairytale: A True Story (U) 3.30pm  
Any Fester (12) 5.45pm The  
Hanging Garden (18) 8.15pm Betty  
Blue (Version Integrale) (18) 11.15pm

**PLYMOUTH** ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114)  
Girls' Night (15) 6pm, 8.30pm

**STREATHAM** ABC (0170-3020415) BR. Shekhan  
Hill. Armageddon 2.30pm,  
5.30pm, 8.50pm The Avengers 1.10pm,  
3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.50pm Bar-  
ney's Great Adventure 1.10pm Dr  
Dolittle 1.45pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm,  
6.30pm, 9.35pm Godzilla 2.20pm,  
6.30pm, 9.30pm The Little Mermaid  
1.10pm Lost In Space 3.10pm, 6.10pm,  
9.10pm The Magic Sword: Quest For  
Camelot 12.10pm

**ODEON** (0181-315 4219) BR:  
Shekhan Hill. Armageddon 2.30pm,  
5.30pm, 8.50pm The Avengers 1.10pm,  
3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.50pm Bar-  
ney's Great Adventure 1.10pm Dr  
Dolittle 1.45pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm,  
6.30pm, 9.35pm Godzilla 2.20pm,  
6.30pm, 9.30pm The Little Mermaid  
1.10pm Lost In Space 3.10pm, 6.10pm,  
9.10pm The Magic Sword: Quest For  
Camelot 12.10pm

**ODEON LIBERTY 2** (0170-  
79040) BR. Romford. Armageddon  
1pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 8pm,  
5.45pm The Avengers 12noon, 2.20pm,  
4.30pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm Barney's  
Great Adventure 1.20pm, 2.05pm,  
2.30pm, 4.15pm, 4.45pm, 6.30pm,  
7.30pm, 8.40pm, 9pm George Of The  
Jungle 10.20am Godzilla 2.40pm, 5.40pm,  
8.30pm The Little Mermaid 12.05pm,  
Lost In Space 11.15am, 2.15pm,  
3.40pm, 5.15pm, 6.20pm, 8pm,  
9.10pm The Magic Sword: Quest For  
Camelot 12.30pm Star Kid 10.20am

**ODEON STUDIO** (0181-315 4218)  
BR  $\diamond$  Romford. Armageddon 1.40pm,  
5.30pm, 8.30pm The Avengers  
2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 9.10pm, 10.15pm  
Barney's Great Adventure 12.45pm Dr  
Dolittle 12.30pm, 1.30pm, 4.00pm,  
6.30pm, 9.10pm Eve's Bayou 8.00pm,  
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Mermaid 1.15pm The Magic Sword:  
Quest For Camelot 2.25pm Paulie  
12.30pm Soul Food 11.30pm

**ROMFORD** ABC (0870-9020419) BR. Romford.  
Armageddon 1.35pm, 4.40pm, 7.50pm  
The Avengers 3.15pm, 5.30pm, 8.45pm  
Barney's Great Adventure 1.10pm Dr  
Dolittle 1.20pm, 3.10pm, 4.20pm,  
6.35pm, 8.45pm Dr Dolittle 2.10pm,  
4.35pm, 6.45pm, 8.55pm

**ODEON LIBERTY 2** (0170-  
79040) BR. Romford. Armageddon  
1pm, 4.20pm, 5.30pm, 8pm,  
5.45pm The Avengers 12noon, 2.20pm,  
4.30pm, 6.35pm, 8.50pm Barney's  
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Camelot 12.10pm

**ODEON STUDIO** (0181-315 4218)  
BR  $\diamond$  Romford. Armageddon 2.30pm,  
5.30pm, 8.50pm The Avengers 1.10pm,  
3.20pm, 5.30pm, 7.40pm, 9.50pm Bar-  
ney's Great Adventure 1.10pm Dr  
Dolittle 1.45pm, 3.45pm, 5.45pm,  
6.30pm, 9.35pm Godzilla 2.20pm,  
6.30pm, 9.30pm The Little Mermaid  
1.10pm Lost In Space 3.10pm, 6.10pm,  
9.10pm The Magic Sword: Quest For  
Camelot 12.10pm



# FRIDAY TELEVISION

BBC1  
BBC2

ITV Carlton  
Channel 4

Channel 5

THE FRIDAY REVIEW

## THOMAS SUTCLIFFE

### TELEVISION REVIEW



IN LAST NIGHT'S episode of *The Broker* (ITV), Mark (GBC), Harry (Gillian) had his office trashed by right-wing thugs. One assumes that Kevin (John) is insured. Whatever's character is insured rates given that it is an insurance investigation - but it won't be easy explaining this claim to the loss adjuster. "Well," he might start, "this bearded toff had some medals stolen from his collection of military and his insurance company agreed not to involve the police and stamp up the money to buy them back." "Really?" "Yes. Sounded a bit unlikely to me, but I think I'd have to make the same offer." But, when I did, the landlord asked me to make the thief hand over his gun to my head and snatched one of the mugs back. I think he was irritated because my wife sang into the mugs - our daughter's been having a few fits at school." "Still, don't see how that leads to this replacement of office equipment. Mr Griffin?" "Oh, well you see the old toff was a fascist and the mafia was a Usurian decoration, and when I got it back, kept it because I was cross with him. And then he went round some National Front types to rough over my secretary, and she opened the safe up. She's a right mess, poor old toff." They had to get it back, kept it because I was cross with him. And then he went round some National Front types to rough over my secretary, and she opened the safe up. She's a right mess, poor old toff." They had

nothing to do with it, but I think that's the exact nature of this insurance. I'm not sure if my son, Kevin (John), would be able to get trace counts as a bonus for a lot of viewers. I spend most of my time trying to pin down

which suggests substitution.

Perhaps it's a brilliant

comedy, but I don't

support any theory

which depends on one

subversion of cliché rather

than that's usual

employment. This is one of those dramas in which a person wakes up by a phone

call, but will instead groan

blindly for the rest of the day, and then pull it into the same

bedding, which conceals

the head, drowning kindly all

that anyone in the entire

history of telephonic

communication has ever done

but, if you only had

television to go by, you might

think it was standard

operating procedure.

Silicons have been bi-

programmed for a departure from

reality, but then they need to

depart a good distance before

they're all in the same

bedroom, and when

they're all in the same

bedroom, and when